

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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How Will GDPR Impact Health and Safety?

On 25 May, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force, which does not leave your organisation with too much time to comply. In fact, 75 per cent of organisations indicate that they will struggle to meet the compliance deadline, according to a 2017 survey from software company, Varonis Systems Inc.

The GDPR will impact how your organisation handles sensitive personal information, which includes employee phone numbers, home addresses and bank account numbers. Most likely, your health and safety system or department stores a great deal of this information. For that reason, it is essential that you take the necessary steps to ensure that you are compliant.

- Understand and document your processes for collecting, handling and storing personal information, and ensure that they meet [GDPR requirements](#).
- Keep detailed documentation of the personal data you hold.
- Conduct a cyber-risk assessment to evaluate the security of your personal information digital library.
- Have clear documentation of where and how personal information is shared with third-party organisations.
- Review and define your organisation's justifications for storing personal information.
- Assess the potential risk if your store of personal information was affected by a cyber-breach.
- Adopt GDPR data retention policies and establish a process to ensure that your organisation remains compliant.

For more information on ensuring compliance, contact **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd** today.

The Winter Health and Safety Hazards that Cost Employers the Most Money

The winter months bring more than just cold weather and shorter days—they also expose your organisation to seasonal health and safety hazards. Five of the most common and costly of these risks are as follows:

1. **Lower temperatures** can impact an employee's judgement and reflexes, which could impact productivity or lead to an injury and a liability claim.
2. **Slips, trips and falls** can seriously injure an employee or a passer-by, leaving your organisation exposed to liability claims.
3. **Driving in inclement weather** places your drivers at risk of accidents. If your driver is responsible for an accident, you could be held liable.
4. **Colds and flus** are common during the winter months and can drain your employees' productivity.
5. **Seasonal affective disorder (SAD)** can cause your employees to feel lethargic, which drains their productivity and concentration.

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HSE News and Prosecutions

New HSE Inspection Initiative Targets Food Manufacturers

In early January, the [HSE began proactive inspections](#), which will review health and safety standards in food manufacturing businesses across the country. The inspections will be unannounced and focus on two of the main causes of ill health in the sector: occupational asthma and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Exposure to flour dust is the second most commonly cited cause of occupational asthma and MSDs are the most common type of work-related illness in the industry, accounting for around 20 per cent of cases. The HSE is confident that these causes of ill health can be prevented as long as organisations have the proper risk control systems in place. To better ensure that you are prepared for whenever the HSE stops by, conduct a thorough risk assessment of your business.

Civil Engineering Firm Fined After Death of Employee

RMB Contractors Ltd was fined £75,000 and ordered to pay costs of £24,482.80 after an employee suffered fatal crush injuries. The civil engineering firm was working on laying a new concrete slab and had a 21-tonne tracked excavator with a stationary dumper truck behind it. There were no safeguards in place, and the employee was walking between the two pieces of plant when the excavator crushed him against the dumper. In its investigation, the HSE found that the firm had not properly assessed the potential risks of the project, nor had it erected any safety barriers.

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