

HSE SAFETY

CORNERSTONES

MAY 2018

Never Assume Your Health and Safety Plan is Evergreen. Review it Today

Last year, there were 1.3 million work-related illnesses and 600,000 non-fatal injuries to workers, according to the HSE. If enough of your workers are affected by injuries and illnesses, it can take a significant toll on your organisation. In fact, work-related ill health cost employers 31.2 million working days and the UK economy £14.9 billion. Thankfully, the solution to reduce the impact of similar incidents at your organisation is rather simple—have a robust health and safety plan.

It is best to annually review your health and safety plan to make sure that it's still effective, up to date and has no gaps. To help with your health and safety review, consider the following guidance:

- **Plan**—Think about your health and safety goals and how to achieve them. Go over the previous year's health and safety incidents and identify why they occurred.
- **Do**—Outline each potential risk and develop a plan to reduce the likelihood of them happening, then implement it.
- **Check**—Measure the performance of your health and safety plan and how well you are controlling your risks.
- **Act**—Review your performance and make any necessary changes to your health and safety plan.

Remember that having a health and safety plan is not enough—you should encourage and support health and safety at all levels of your organisation.

Investing in Off-the-shelf Training May End up Costing More in the Long Run

Manual handling risks—which include musculoskeletal disorders and repetitive strain injuries—can happen at nearly every workplace and they cause more than one-third of all work-related ill health, according to the HSE. To protect their workers, organisations often invest in manual handling training. However, training can be expensive and some organisations choose to go with a cheaper option. These off-the-shelf options don't always carry the same seal of quality as HSE endorsed courses and can even teach improper manual handling practices.

To ensure that all organisations can provide their workers with the correct manual handling training regardless of cost, the HSE has released [new guidance](#) that outlines how to properly manage manual handling risks. In addition, the HSE has several free tools to help organisations better address these types of risks.

- [MAC tool](#) provides guidance on lifting, carrying and lowering items.
- [V-MAC tool](#) provides guidance for instances where load weights vary.
- [ART tool](#) provides guidance on repetitive upper limb tasks.
- [Push/pull tool](#) provides guidance on moving loads by pushing and pulling.

For more information about reducing your manual handling risks, contact Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd today.

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HSE News and Prosecutions

Plastics Manufacturer Fined £1 Million After a Delivery Driver's Death

Glynwed Pipe Systems Ltd was fined £1 million and ordered to pay costs of £27,942.57 after a delivery driver visiting the company was struck and killed by a forklift. The driver had arrived at the yard area when a forklift overlaid with large coils struck him. In its investigation, the HSE found that the company had failed to properly implement and enforce safe transport practices in its yard area.

Dairy Farm Fined After an Escaped Bull Tackled a Farmhand

T N Beeston and Son, a dairy farm, was fined £16,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,079 after a bull seriously injured a farmhand. The man had entered the shed where the dairy cows were stored to clean it out. However, the shed also housed the bull's pen. Unbeknownst to the farmhand, the bull had gotten out and struck the man. In its investigation, the HSE found that the farm had not properly conducted a risk assessment of the shed nor had it installed the necessary safety restraints in the bull's pen.

Scaffolding Company and its Managing Director Sentenced After Safety Incident

LS Scaffolding Ltd was fined £47,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,371 with a £170 surcharge after a worker suffered a serious injury while taking down a scaffold. In addition, the company's managing director was sentenced to 18 weeks custodial sentence suspended for 12 months and fined £1,700 with a £115 surcharge for the incident. In its investigation, the HSE found that the company had been using untrained workers to construct and take down scaffolding.

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