

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

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Lone Workers Face Unique Risks: Keep Them Healthy and Safe

Nearly 8 million employees in the UK are lone workers (those that work by themselves without direct supervision)—that's more than 20 per cent of the working population, according to industry research. Especially in the age of technological advancements and flexible work offerings (eg working remotely), lone working has become an increasingly common practice. Whether it be a homemaker, driver, maintenance employee, security guard, cleaner or any number of contractors, lone workers are present in a variety of industries. However, these employees also face unique occupational risks, seeing as a lack of supervision can increase the likelihood of an unsafe working environment. Use these tips to keep your lone workers safe:

- **Make sure the employee is competent.** This involves ensuring they have appropriate levels of training, experience and medical suitability to work alone.
- **Implement an emergency communication system.** Especially for employees that face daily hazards, it's critical to be able to reach someone if disaster strikes. This could entail a safety alert device or 24/7 helpline.
- **Conduct a lone working risk assessment.** This should include making sure the work environment is healthy and safe, as well as discussing potential risks with the employee and appropriate mitigation solutions.

Here's How to Protect Your Employees' Ears From Excessive Noise Exposure

While many may associate excessive noise with an excited crowd at a sporting event or the front rows of a concert, this sensory experience can occur in the workplace as well. Employees in the construction, agriculture, manufacturing and entertainment industries often experience excessive noise due to the nature of their work.

If workers in your organisation are exposed to excessive noise, you can't afford to ignore the problem. In fact, the HSE estimates 17,000 people in the UK suffer deafness or other ear conditions due to excessive noise at work. Stay compliant with workplace regulations and protect your employees' ears with this guidance:

- [Assess](#) the risks your employees face from noise at work. Ensure your workplace doesn't exceed the legal limits of noise exposure (daily or weekly exposure of 87dB, or peak sound pressure of 140dB).
- Use alternative procedures and equipment that reduce or eliminate noise risks. In addition, provide employees with training when handling excessive noise.
- Offer routine hearing checks and medical examinations to ensure your employees aren't suffering from noise exposure. Keep proper documentation.

For additional guidance, contact Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd today.

HSE News and Prosecutions

Waste Company Fined Following Workers' Injuries in Explosion

A waste company has been fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,603.14 after two employees suffered burn injuries while processing flammable aerosol containers. The workers were processing aerosol canisters using an industrial plastic shredder. When using a gas-operated forklift to place the canisters into the shredder, a spark ignited from the forklift and combined with a cloud of gas from the aerosols, causing the explosion. One worker experienced third-degree burns from the incident, leaving him in a coma for 10 days and on a life support machine. Further investigation revealed the work lacked proper supervision or suitable planning.

Tyre Manufacturer Fined After Employees Suffer Broken Arms

An international tyre manufacturing company has been fined £512,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,820 after two employees suffered broken arms from the same machine. One employee was loading the machine when his arm was pulled in by the roller. Another employee was trying to make an adjustment during a production run when his arm was pulled in by the same roller. An investigation found the machine lacked proper safety guards, even after the first incident took place. For more information on proper use and implementation of workplace machinery, click [here](#).

Company Fined After Vehicle Collision

A company has been fined £60,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,302 after a visiting tanker collided with a forklift truck. The accident occurred when the tanker was reversing into a tanker discharge, hitting the forklift truck at a low speed. No one was injured in the process. Further investigation revealed the company had insufficient control of workplace transport.

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