

Risk management tips brought to you by the insurance professionals at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Last year Business Secretary Vince Cable announced a £14.7 million joint investment to develop 3D printing projects. The investment included £8.4 million from the Technology Strategy Board and Research Councils and £6.3 million from private investors.

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## Conducting Plant and Equipment Inspections

As an employer, you are responsible for ensuring that your employees have a safe working environment, and part of that means inspecting and maintaining work equipment. Conducting inspections is extremely important, especially in the manufacturing industry, which often relies on heavy-duty plant and equipment to get the job done.

Inspections should identify whether work equipment can be operated, adjusted and maintained safely, and should also detect and remedy any issues before they result in a health and safety risk.

However, not all work equipment needs a formal inspection. In many cases a quick visual check before use will suffice. More detailed inspections are only necessary for equipment which creates significant health and safety risks stemming from deterioration, incorrect

installation or reinstallation, or any other circumstances.

Your business may be subject to additional health and safety legislation requiring regular formal inspections, depending on the type of equipment you have and the nature of your work.

Count on the insurance professionals at Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd for more guidance on conducting compliant plant and equipment inspections.



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## 3D Printing Is the Future

You have probably already heard of 3D printing, the additive manufacturing technique involving printing layers of material on top of one another to 'grow' a product. It could revolutionise manufacturing.

3D printing relies on computer-aided design (CAD) files. Stereolithography software reads the CAD file and uses a range of materials—including thermoplastics, edible materials, rubber, clay, porcelain, metal, ceramic powders, plaster, paper and even human tissue—to print the shape.

Like any technology, 3D printing is not without its risks, many of which are yet to be discovered. Despite these risks, companies are looking to 3D printing technology to rethink processes and improve business operations. Do not get left behind in the march towards the future: Let Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd help keep your business at the front of the pack.

## Working Safely with Hazardous Chemicals

The manufacturing industry is diverse, encompassing businesses creating a wide range of products. Many of these businesses must contend with using or producing hazardous chemicals that are integral to the manufacturing process. If your company uses chemicals that can negatively affect people's health, or produces harmful chemicals as a result of the manufacturing process, you must carry out Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments.

COSHH assessments are designed to evaluate how your organisation uses, produces and stores hazardous chemicals. They should consider all the ways that employees could be exposed to the chemicals, such as through inhalation, ingestion or skin absorption, and list the negative effects of chemical contact.

After reviewing this vital information, your business should determine the best measures to control chemical risks in the workplace. Simply ask yourself the following four questions:

1. **Where is there potential for exposure to substances that might be hazardous to health?** Examples of such potential include processes that emit vapour, mist or gas, or processes involving skin contact with liquids, pastes and dusts.
2. **In what ways are the substances harmful to health?** This information is easily attainable—get safety data sheets from the manufacturer, read trade magazines and rely on the HSE industry-specific guidance found at [www.hse.gov.uk/manufacturing](http://www.hse.gov.uk/manufacturing).
3. **What jobs or tasks lead to exposure?** Record which tasks carry the potential of exposure to harmful substances.
4. **Are there any areas of concern?** Pay attention to the most common chemical-related injuries experienced in your workplace, such as burns from splashes, and factor them into your assessment. You can also look at your Accident Book, or record of work-related injuries, to get this information.

Although your COSHH assessment should focus on the risks linked to hazardous substances in the workplace, your business' substance risk is not limited to simply those which are labelled 'hazardous'. You must consider how each substance in your workplace presents a risk. Seemingly innocuous substances such as cleaners can actually be quite dangerous. Do not overlook such hazards by concentrating solely on the most dangerous substance risks. Scrutinise every workplace substance to ensure your business stays safe and compliant.

## Recent Fines and Prosecutions

### High lead levels found in workers at North Wales ceramic tile factory

A manufacturing firm in Denbigh was fined £35,000 and ordered to pay costs of £23,271 after an HSE investigation revealed that nine employees at the firm had abnormally high levels of lead in their blood due to their employer's safety failings. The firm uses colour glazes containing lead in its tiling work, yet failed to adequately control workers' lead exposure or even measure lead concentration in the workplace's air.

### Apprentice loses a finger due to ineffective safety guard

A Northumberland manufacturer was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £894.95 in costs after a third-year 18-year-old apprentice lost a finger when his hand was crushed beneath a guillotine. The manufacturer fitted the machine with an ineffective safety guard and neglected to maintain it, leading the safety guard to malfunction and causing the guillotine to crush the apprentice's hand.

### Forklift truck crushes worker's leg

An Essex-based manufacturing company was fined £7,000 and ordered to pay costs of £621 after a forklift truck reversed over a 44-year-old delivery driver's lower leg and crushed it. The company had declined to carry out a risk assessment and establish procedures to ensure workers on foot were safely separated from moving vehicles.