

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012-13, manufacturing employees accounted for about 10 per cent of the British workforce, but suffered almost 20 per cent of reported employee injuries and fatalities, according to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Keep reading for ways to protect your employees and narrow this gap.

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## 7 Easy Ways to Ensure Machinery Safety

Operating dangerous machinery is an inescapable part of working in the manufacturing industry—you cannot control that. But as an employer you can and should control how your employees manage that danger. Follow these seven top tips to help employees manage machinery safely.

1. Require employees to inspect a machine every time before they use it. They should check that the machine is complete, with all safeguards fitted, and free from defects.
2. Produce a safe system of work for using and maintaining the machine.
3. Ensure every static machine is stable and has been installed properly.
4. Train employees in choosing the right machine for the job.

5. Check that all new machines have the CE mark and are supplied with a Declaration of Conformity with instructions in English.
6. Make sure the machine is safe for any work that has to be done when setting up, during normal use, when clearing blockages, when carrying out repairs for breakdowns, and during planned maintenance.
7. Implement processes that guarantee machines are properly switched off, isolated or locked off before any maintenance.



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## Proper Equipment Breakdown Cover

Because your manufacturing business depends on functioning equipment to operate and maintain revenue, a breakdown could be devastating. The threat of breakdown is increasingly prevalent because technologically advanced equipment can be sensitive and fragile.

Losses due to equipment breakdown continue to surge with the rise of just-in-time manufacturing, Internet marketing and improved supply chain management. Problems with your equipment can be extremely costly if you are not properly insured.

Equipment breakdown insurance can help. It can provide cover for electrical systems, air conditioning and refrigeration, boilers and pressure vessels, computers and communication equipment, mechanical systems and more. Trust Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd to insure your business against breakdowns.

## Are You Adequately Controlling Noise at Work?

Noise is an insidious hazard in the manufacturing workplace. The constant drone of noise in the workplace means employees may eventually acclimatise to the sound, but that does not mean they are safe. Exposure to noise can cause hearing damage that is permanent and disabling. This can be hearing loss that is gradual because of prolonged noise exposure, but also damage caused by sudden, extremely loud noises. Noise is a subtle hazard with the potential to slowly and imperceptibly wear down employees' hearing until it is too late to reverse the damage.

Without proper protection, your employees are susceptible to life-long hearing problems and safety risks due to noise's ability to disrupt communications between employees and make warnings harder to hear.

Are you properly controlling noise in your workplace? The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (in Great Britain) and The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2006 (in Northern Ireland) require employers to control the noise they are exposed to whilst at work. As an employer you are legally obligated to assess and identify measures to eliminate or reduce risks from exposure to noise to protect your employees' hearing.

Controlling noise does not necessarily entail a complete workplace overhaul—where the noise risks are low, the actions you take may be simple and inexpensive. But where the risks are high, you will need to formulate a noise-control action plan.

To control your workplace's noise, first consider the feasibility of removing the noise source altogether, such as relocating a noisy machine to a more remote location, away from workers. If that is not possible, consider adopting the following control measures:

- Use quieter equipment or a different, quieter process.
- Implement engineering controls to limit the noise from a machine or process.
- Erect screens, barriers, enclosures and absorbent materials to muffle noise.
- Re-design your workplace to create quiet workstations.
- Improve working techniques to lower noise levels.
- Limit the time people spend in noisy areas.

Contact **Crendon Insurance Brokers** for more guidance that helps stifle noise in the workplace and shield your employees from harm.

## Recent Fines & Prosecutions

### **Manufacturing worker's fingers crushed in unguarded machine**

A Dudley welding machine manufacturer was fined £53,000 and ordered to pay £3,100 in costs after safety failings led to a 49-year-old worker losing two fingers. The worker was fixing a machine when he pressed the wrong button, causing the machine to crush his hand. The manufacturer did not report the incident to the HSE and neglected to inspect the machine after acquiring it from another firm where it had been dangerously modified.

### **Suffolk firm fined after teenage worker's arm crushed**

A Suffolk horse bedding manufacturer was fined £18,000 and order to pay £6,929 in costs after inadequate isolation procedures caused a baling machine to crush a 17-year-old worker's arm. The worker was cleaning the machine, which was suddenly activated and then crushed his arm.

### **Van maker prosecuted for numerous, serious safety failings**

An East of England vehicle manufacturer was fined nearly £180,000 for a litany of safety lapses after a worker suffered severe crush injuries in a lifting operation. Due to the absence of a crane's protective frame and serious maintenance flaws, the worker was crushed between two 8-tonne die blocks and sustained multiple injuries, including collapsed lungs.