

## BUSINESS BOFFIN

# A promise of change to safety and environmental legislation

**Phil Chambers of Strategic Safety Systems discusses changes to safety and environmental legislation, what has been done and what is promised**



The “burden of H&S legislation” is being talked about again by politicians, with many incorrect statements being made. There seems to be the belief that silly safety practices are the fault of stringent legislation, rather than fear induced by a compensation culture

The last round of changes removed 12 obscure regulations, such as the Locomotives (Metrication) Regulations, about which I’m sure you’re all relieved. However, the changes to RIDDOR are welcome.

There are still some other promised changes which are:

### **A change to no-win, no-fee legislation**

Most people believe that there is lots of scope for improvement here as the fear of civil claims is what drives some of the crazy ‘elf ‘n safety practices one hears about. The government launched a consultation on 29<sup>th</sup> March which covered many areas. You can see what this is all about on my blog <http://phil-sss.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/proposed-reforms-of-no-win-no-fee.html>.

### **Reforms to environmental legislation**

In contrast to H&S legislation, environmental legislation is a complicated mess and it is quite easy to fall foul somewhere; improvements in this area are to be welcomed. There are some outline proposals to cut red tape relating to this area.

As far as the majority of people reading this are concerned, the applicable improvements are to:

- Waste transfer notes (not a moment too soon!)
- Hazardous waste
- Producer responsibility obligations
- Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and
- Site waste management plans.

and others will welcome any improvement to the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regs., as more SMEs fall within REACH this year..

The (surprisingly readable) outline proposals are given in

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13728-red-tape-environment.pdf>.

Pages 1 to 16 discuss the significant changes. Just to ram home what a mess the legislation is, the remaining 30 pages are required just to list the legislation. Some of the recommendations should have been done by now, but their appearance is not readily apparent.

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