

## Phil Chambers

**From:** Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 29 February 2012 22:30  
**To:** phil@strategicsafety.co.uk  
**Subject:** News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!

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February 2012

### Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter. What we aim to do is to provide information which is of use to you and to let you know the activities in which we have been involved. We also aim to let you know of any incidents that have occurred in, and legislation that is related to, the areas in which we work. We realise that, with the broad spectrum of our activities, some may not be relevant to you but we hope you find the rest useful.

Whilst the intention of this newsletter is to be useful, we realise that most people are plagued by spam and should you wish to prevent future issues being sent to you, unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of the page.

Regards,

Philip Chambers  
Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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### Beware the CE Marking process, yet again

This past month, SSS have been engaged on several [CE assessment](#) projects and have been asked for advice on other equipment. The key points to be remembered are:

- Even if the equipment is for self-use, the company providing the equipment must go through the CE marking process. This is normally a self-certification process. It's not too difficult, but please [contact SSS](#) if you need advice on this.
- The standard on safety related control systems EN ISO 13849 is now in place. I've said before that I consider this to be a very poorly drafted standard but we're stuck with it. It requires supplier companies to go through a much more rigorous analysis of what is required in the control system. One paper I've just read suggests that if you have a single channel system, then you need to check interlocks 100 times between events when they might be needed. Just think about that; every time you open a guard for a normal operation, you need to then open it 100 times just to prove that the interlocks work. A sensibly designed control system will not require this, but many suppliers are unaware of this.

### Company fined for failing to check interlocks

Whilst on the subject of interlock checks, a company has recently been fined (with costs) almost £17,000 for failing to carry out interlock checks. An operator accessed part of the machine through a supposedly interlocked guard but the machine started whilst his arm was in the danger position. In addition to dislocation, he subsequently needed three skin grafts and two metal plates have been fitted into his forearm. He has been unable to return to work owing to his injuries.

[See more about this case.](#)

SSS provide a system of interlock checks which can provide a highly visible check record. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

### SSS Director to work in plastics and burns surgery within the Severn Region

Congratulations to Alice, one of our non-executive directors, who has recently gained a position within the Severn Region in plastics and burns surgery. Her exploits whilst a doctor in Swansea in re-attaching a thumb have been reported in an earlier edition of this newsletter. Whilst her work will cover other causes, quite a lot is caused through accidents and it's disturbing to hear her describe the steps that have to be taken as a result of these.

I hope you have found this information of interest. If you have any suggestions of other information you would like to see, please [contact me](#).

Regards,

Philip Chambers  
Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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