

Phil Chambers

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
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Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!

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Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

July 2011

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the July 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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Economic climate leads to a fifth of employers 'revising' fire safety measures

This is really worrying. Apparently, UK employers are potentially putting their employees' lives at risk by cutting back on fire safety in the current economic climate.

Almost a fifth of bosses said they had revised fire safety measures, such as delaying maintenance checks of fire safety equipment, reducing staff training or delaying updating their fire risk assessments. This is despite the fact that 20% of them saying they have had a fire in their premises.

Some 16% admit to not having an up to date fire risk assessment and a quarter don't even know who does their fire risk assessment.

The survey also found that a third of staff don't know what to do in the event of a fire. Over half of staff surveyed don't know how to use a fire extinguisher or fire alarm, while a quarter of workers don't know where their nearest fire exit is and a third don't know where their fire assembly point is.

A representative of the Fire Industry Association, said:

"The figures are very worrying; 82% of employees would like more training on fire safety and 14% don't believe their company has any fire protection. We would like to remind all businesses across the country to review their fire risk assessments, making sure they are up to date, and to continue the maintenance schedule for all their fire safety equipment."

Changes to Waste Transfer Notes

As we mentioned in the [May newsletter](#), the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 introduce a requirement to follow a waste hierarchy. As part of this, waste transfer notes will change to include a box that you, the waste producer, must complete that states that you have followed this. This change become mandatory in September 2011. If you are following the waste hierarchy already (and you're missing out if you're not) then you don't have to do anything, but be aware that you'll be asked to sign that you comply in future.

Machine assessment and CE marking on the increase

Over the past month, we've seen a dramatic increase in the requests for machine assessment and CE marking support. This

is a key service we provide and the requests this month have included:

- Requirement for training and support for a manufacturer in Lancashire
- Requirement from a bathroom equipment manufacturer in Derbyshire for equipment they are making for self-use
- Requirement for assessing a special purpose roll forming machine in the West Midlands
- Requirement for assessing tube bending equipment in Germany and Sweden
- Guarding design for plastics machinery in Lincolnshire

Remember: CE marking applies even if you are making equipment for your own use or are importing even old equipment into the EU.

[See more about CE](#).

Make use of our free "Useful Information" on the SSS website.

Last month, we introduced you to the [How do I know if my refrigerant is an HCFC?](#) information.

There's a lot more information that you can use, all of which is free.

For example, there's a spreadsheet you can use for calculating noise exposure if you know the noise levels. Of course, you can use the HSE's nomogram for this, but the spreadsheet makes it so much easier. And it also calculates 5 day exposures.

[See the useful information page](#).

New features on INTACT

We've added some new features to the SSS_INTACT Integrated Action Management System. These relate to the Information Security and Business Continuity module and are improvements to the risk assessment recording section. It really comes of benefit for those companies seeking certification to ISO 27001 Information Security Management as you can now show initial assessments and the assessments after you have taken improvement actions.

In addition, we're about to release the On-Line Help feature for INTACT. So, instead of the Word document which can easily become out of date, there will be an on-line help facility which is part of the SSS website. Help buttons on INTACT updates will link into this. We'll tell you more about this in the next newsletter.

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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