

Phil Chambers

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
Sent: 26 July 2012 10:50
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!

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July 2012

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

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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HSE promote sensible PAT testing approach

Good to see that the HSE are now promoting the sensible approach to electrical safety testing that SSS have always advocated. If you have situations such as offices, it is not necessary to have equipment tested annually. Their publication "Maintaining portable electric equipment in low-risk environments" is short and readable. You can read it at <http://tinyurl.com/bizinf-2y219>. And their web page "[Portable appliance testing - frequently asked questions](#)" is also worth looking at.

Beware CE mark, yet again

I know being beware of the CE mark sounds repetitive. However, this time I nearly lost most of my fingers in brand new cutting and creasing machine I was assessing.

Please remember: The CE marking process is that of self-certification.

The machine that nearly did for me had the following faults:

- No guarding on feed mechanism underside. (Risk of entrapment)
- No guarding of gaps which could cause finger amputation injury. One gap is right next to handles on a part being moved. (Risk of finger amputation)
- Access platform from which the machine is loaded and unloaded extended for only 33% of the full width and had no end handrails. Operators were therefore required to reach out over the edge twice for every item processed. (Risk of falls)
- Scissor lifts for raising material had no devices to protect against crush injury either during normal use or during maintenance. (Risk of crush or foot amputation)
- Potential for heavy part of the machine to be dropped. Stops to prevent this were marginal. (Risk of upper body or lower body crush injury)

Certification successes



Congratulations to Sutlow Dobbs Associates who have just gained certification to ISO 9001 using systems and support from

SSS. Sutlow Dobbs, who are based near Gloucester, provide drainage modelling services for water authorities and councils, which use a combination of existing and predicted data to show the effects of developments on the likelihood of flooding. This is the 29th company who have gained 9001 certification with support from SSS, though there are an increasing number of companies, already with 9001 certification, who are switching to SSS systems for reasons of each of use.

Diesel fumes are now classed as a carcinogen

The World Health Organisation has reclassified diesel fumes as a Category 1 carcinogen, similar to tobacco. The primary risk is that of lung cancer, but there may be a link to bladder cancer. This has resulted in a spate of enquiries about measuring diesel fumes.

Because diesel fumes are complex, it is not straightforward to measure fumes. The current best practice is to measure elemental carbon. This can be done using cassettes and a sampling pump with subsequent laboratory analysis.

[SSS can do this for you.](#)

However, there is nothing with which to compare any results. There is no WEL or any other figure. So we can get a set of results and not know if they are good or bad.

Guidance on EN 13849

It is alarming to see that many companies who provide machinery and apply the CE mark are still not following EN 13849 Safety of Machinery - Safety Related Control Systems, which they are legally obliged to do. This may be due to EN 13849 being difficult to follow; it tends to jump backwards and forwards.

To help overcome this, SSS have provided some very simple [guidance on how to drive EN 13849](#) in our range of technical papers. Companies will still need a copy of EN 13849, but this guidance is intended to help them follow it.

Sad to see the demise of PIAC

The Printing Industry Advisory Committee, which was chaired and driven by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), supported by stakeholders from the industry has come to an end after 32 years, primarily for reasons of cost saving.

As a past member of this committee and a contributory author to The Printer's Guide to Health and Safety, I'd like to say how sad I am that this has happened.

[See more](#)

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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