

Phil Chambers

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

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June 2012

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the June 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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Certification successes



Congratulations to the SPS Group, in Ferdown, Dorset who have met the requirements for FSC and PEFC chain of custody certification. SPS already have certification to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and POPIA, but SSS have worked with them to completely revise and rationalise their systems for these. There is now a single, integrated system to cover all such standards. And SSS also provide health and safety support for them.

SPS is the 41st company that SSS have helped gain FSC and PEFC certification.

Clarification of magazine inserts and FSC

At least one FSC auditor has, in the past, stated that inserts in magazines are an inherent part of the magazine and must therefore themselves be FSC. As inserts typically come from other printers over which the magazine printer has no control, this is a nightmare.

SSS have looked into this and have found that FSC Directive FSC-DIR-40-004 EN states that inserts and detachable stickers are optional and therefore do not need to be considered as being part of the product with respect to FSC. It doesn't matter if they are loose or bound. (See FSC-DIR-40-004 EN page 15 should this affect you.)

Make sure your comply with fire requirements

There have been some horrendous fines for companies failing to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. Whilst the New Look fine of £538,000 arose following a fire, many others (eg Co-Op at £238,000) have arisen out of inspections done by the Fire and Rescue Service. Shops have obviously been a target, but factories are likely to be next on the list. The key things to do are:

- Carry out a proper [fire risk assessment](#). In our opinion, this must include a drawing of the building with exit routes, etc., shown on it. When we assess a large building, we typically have 2 sizes of drawings, one for the overview showing routes and areas of concern and a larger scale drawing showing details of extinguishers, etc.
- Address any of the problems that may arise out of this assessment
- Brief personnel on their obligations, such as not blocking fire exits and what to do in the event of a fire.

- Regularly verify that your precautions work (and record such checks.) This includes fire drills and the inspection of equipment such as emergency lighting.

Good news for business WEEE

In a refreshing burst of common sense, the Environment Agency is allowing businesses to treat some of their waste electrical and electronic equipment in the same way as one would if it were from a private household. Where the waste is "by its nature and quantity, similar to that from private households" you can dispose of it in the same way as your domestic WEEE. So this applies to desktop computers, fridges, kettles and the like. You can't pass on large quantities of WEEE in small lots, thereby pretending that it is the same as domestic WEEE, but it does make life easier for businesses. The change to Reg.2 of the WEEE Regs. 2006 is explained in [this pdf from the EA](#).

Accidents and court cases

A component engineering company in Cheltenham has admitted safety failings after a worker was injured inside a machine, which had had its safety mechanism deliberately disabled. Fines + costs + compensation was £16500. [See more.](#)

A recycling company was fined £277,000 including costs after the death of an unsupervised, inexperienced 21-year-old worker who was operating a poorly-maintained loader. [See more](#)

We're still here

There have been two companies with similar names to our's that no longer exist. Strategic Safety Services Ltd., and Strategic Safety Ltd., are no longer about but Strategic Safety Systems Ltd., is alive and well and about to complete our 16th year.

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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