

Phil Chambers

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
Sent: 29 March 2012 08:26
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!

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Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

March 2012

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the March 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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Changes to RIDDOR and the Health and Safety Executive

There are two things happening, or to be more specific, one is about to happen and the other has been delayed.

- From **6 April 2012**, RIDDOR's over three day injury reporting requirement will change. From then the trigger point will increase from over three days to over seven days incapacitation (not counting the day on which the accident happened).
Incapacitation means that the worker is absent or is unable to do work that they would reasonably be expected to do as part of their normal work. Employers and others with responsibilities under RIDDOR must still keep a record of all over three day injuries - if the employer has to keep an accident book, then this record will be enough. The deadline by which the over seven day injury must be reported will increase to 15 days from the day of the accident.
- It was announced on 15th March that the HSE's '[Fees for Intervention' \(FFI\) scheme](#), under which it plans to recover its investigation costs from businesses it finds to be in breach of health and safety law, will start in October, not April as planned.

SSS Register of Legislation

The SSS Register of Legislation will change to issue S to reflect the change to RIDDOR. However, unless we have provided 18001 systems, we won't be sending this out just yet. In future, upgrades will be chargeable at £20 per update per site. However, if there is an on-going audit contract with SSS, then the updates will be free.

Keep health, safety, environmental and quality systems simple.

We've had two instances recently where we've been asked to look at existing safety "policies". One was a "policy" for a company of 6 people or so carrying out simple operations. It ran to 137 pages and was unworkable. The other was a company with whom we've started to work, picking up the health and safety systems as part of the contract. This was a larger company but there were 5 x 38mm ring binders. Both of these are completely unworkable. There is no legal requirement to have complex systems. There are some mandatory requirements but the prime target is to have systems which are appropriate and workable. Keep the systems simple and workable.

Funding available

For manufacturing companies, there is funding available from MAS mainly to help cover consultancy type services. So in the case of 9001 and 14001 systems development, MAS can match fund the costs in a business toward help setting up the processes and systems for these standards. MAS cannot fund the accreditation itself but can help support work enabling the company achieve these standards. [Link to MAS](#).

Incidents that have occurred

There have been two court cases which are of concern:

1. A factory worker suffered life-changing leg injuries during a lifting operation, which a sheriff described as being "doomed to failure". Craig Stewart, 22, was clearing equipment as part of the decommissioning of a workshop at AG Brown Ltd's factory during which they decided to lift a lathe, which weighed 1.2 tonnes, using a lifting eye and a fabric sling hooked over the forks of a forklift truck. The lathe fell and crushed part of his leg. AG Brown were fined £10,000.
[See full report.](#)
2. David S Smith were fined £50,000 + costs after an employee suffered breaks to his arm and ribs. The 27-year-old man was being trained by a second employee on the use of a re-winder when his fingers became trapped. The second man, unaware of what had happened, then started the machine which threw the employee over the top.
[See full report](#)

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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