

**From:** Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 11 November 2014 10:35  
**To:** phil@strategicsafety.co.uk  
**Subject:** News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!



**Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter**

**November 2014  
Issue 1**

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the first November 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.

Regards,

Philip Chambers  
Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- [DEREGULATION BILL PASSES THROUGH LORDS](#)
- [HSE 2014 H&S DATA](#)
- [FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW](#)
- [INCIDENTS AND COURT CASES](#)
- [DAILY UPDATES](#)

**QUICK LINKS**

- [Our website](#)
- [More about INTACT](#)
- [Health, safety, environmental support](#)

***Deregulation Bill passes through Lords***

The Deregulation Bill has just passed through the House of Lords without any amendments to its first clause, the element of the Bill that concerns some safety organisations.

Clause 1 makes some individuals totally exempt from the health and safety regime prescribed by the Health and Safety at Work, etc., 1974 Act, but the numbers that will be fully exempted are likely to be relatively low and the risk they pose to themselves or others in their work activities will equally be comparatively low.

There is an uninformed minority who are constantly reinforcing the view that health and safety is in some way excessive and a barrier to business. This should be contrasted with the view (reported in the SSS second October newsletter) of Judith Hackitt, Chair of the HSE, who urged people not to confuse health and safety with liability limitation.

The general feeling is that Clause 1 is a symbolic totem to the idea of deregulation and will not have much material impact.

***HSE publish 2014 safety performance data***

The latest data for workplace-related injuries, ill health and death has just been published by the HSE.

Non-fatal injury shows a consistent decline with the present level being 300 per 100,000 workers. This compares with 600 per 100,000 workers 10 years ago. The change under RIDDOR 2013 from 3 day to 7 day absence reporting will skew these figures, but there is still a consistent decline.

There were 133 deaths at a rate of 0.45 deaths per 100,000 workers. This compares with 240 deaths at 0.8 per 100,000 workers 10 years ago.

The same kind of improvement has not taken place with respect to workplace-related health. This is a consistent level of around 550,000 instances.

[See SSS blog on this.](#)

## How often should fire risk assessments be reviewed?

The question sometimes arises on how often fire risk assessments need to be reviewed and what the review should comprise.

Strategic Safety Systems promote the policy, for all and not just fire risk assessments, that risk assessments should be reviewed at least every 2 years, unless there is reason to suspect that the assessment is no longer valid.

So, for example, one of our clients has just extended their factory, changing the area of course, but also changing the fire exits and adding a 2-storey work area in one corner of the extension. As this is a significant change, SSS reviewed and updated the fire risk assessment, even though it was only 10 months since it was last reviewed.

A review does not necessarily mean a complete re-assessment, though SSS and other consultancies typically do that if another organisation has carried out the assessment and we find it deficient.

[See blog on this](#)

## Incidents and court cases

### Colombier fined £34,000 after pallets of paper fall

Colombier (UK) Ltd., the UK division of a pan-European paper company in Sittingbourne, was fined £34,496( inc. costs) after a worker broke her leg in three places when poorly stacked pallets of paper collapsed.

[See details](#)

### Diageo fined after 2 separate falls

Drinks company Diageo Scotland Ltd was fined £18,000 two workers were injured in falls at separate plants in Moray. The falls occurred while clearing blockages and there was neither a risk assessment nor any written instructions.

[See details](#)

### Plastics company fined after worker was struck by molten plastic

Ebac Ltd., of County Durham was fined £9,000 (inc. costs and surcharge) after a worker suffered serious burns when he was struck by a jet of hot molten plastic.

[See details](#)

## Daily updates

Don't forget, there's lots of useful information that is highlighted typically daily on the SSS Twitter and Blog sites.

[Follow us on twitter](#)

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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](#).

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 below.

Regards,

Philip Chambers

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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