

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
Sent: 19 November 2014 10:31
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!



Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

November 2014
Issue 2

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the second 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.

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> 50% of SMEs failing on health and safety

A recent [YouGov study on behalf of Seton](#) found that health and safety standards are not being met by more than half the SMEs in the UK.

The biggest impediments are claimed to be time constraints (23%) and cost constraints (19%). 22% stated that either no, or only 1, employees had received any H&S training. 32% stated that an accident in the last 12 months could have been avoided had procedures or equipment been in place.

The key approach that SMEs should take is to identify and control the significant risks and avoid overcomplicating matters. Unfortunately, there is the tendency to do the latter, as noted in one recent SSS blog following work to dramatically simplify a health and safety system presented by a new client who found it unworkable.

[See SSS blog on simplification](#)
[See SSS health and safety services](#)

Be wary of FFI fee reimbursement schemes

Readers of this newsletter will be aware that the HSE now charge a fee for intervention (FFI) of £114 per hour for any situation where they do work as a result of a material breach of health and safety regulations. The idea is that those that are at fault should pay, rather than the taxpayer.

The FFI fee reimbursement scheme promoted by some companies seems to be an insurance policy where you pay a premium and can then claim back the whole of the fee that the HSE has charged you.

Insurance is essential for many situations and, on the face of it, this might seem to be one of those. I am not suggesting that those who are selling this scheme are dishonest, but I offer the following observations:

- Unlike an injury or similar claim which could run to 10's or even 100's of thousands, FFI is not a great amount; whilst nobody likes to pay this fee, it is not crippling.
- There is an excess of £150, so that is 80 minutes of FFI.
- Advertised limits are £10,000 for each claim and £25,000 per year. Really, if you are anticipating getting charged this much, you've got serious problems. You need to put the effort into correcting the problem, rather than accepting that it will happen.
- FFI is contestable. SSS have contested an improvement notice and FFI for one client and the HSE withdrew the notice and the fee.

Rather than sign up for an FFI fee reimbursement scheme, talk to a health and safety practitioner and make sure you are on top of your health and safety issues. And that's the core of the SSS approach.

[See SSS health and safety services](#)

Environmental and Health and Safety systems for Bradford company

Most of the 400 clients for whom SSS have provided support have been in the manufacturing sector, including engineering, printing and chemicals. However, we find that we are providing support for companies in other sectors, such as electricians, plumbers and now, energy conservation.



We have recently completed systems that will enable Bradford-based Sakhara, a leading provider of energy conservation and renewable energy services to become certified to ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

In addition to wanting to "do the right thing in a structured way", Sakhara realise that certification to these standards, which is under way, will give them a much higher profile in the market and with the providers of financing schemes for energy improvers.

[See more about SSS Business Improvement services.](#)

Incidents and court cases

Vector Aerospace fined £52,514 after failing to assess operations resulting in hand-arm vibration syndrome

Vector Aerospace International Limited, of Gosport, was fined on 3 November 2014 after personnel developed hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) symptoms. Although a survey was carried out in 2007, it wasn't until 2013/14 after improved health surveillance was eventually introduced that 13 cases were identified.

[See details](#)

Advance Display fined £17,677 after worker's ankle was crushed in a woodworking machine

Advance Display Ltd, of Loughborough was fined because the pendant control on a machine, which allowed safe remote control, had been broken for more than three and a half years and Advance had never replaced nor repaired it. As a result, a worker was injured when accessing the machine directly.

[See details](#)

Keighley-based firm fined for noise exposure

Fibreline Ltd, a Keighley firm specialising in foam and feather furnishings was fined £19,457 (inc. costs) after failing to protect its workforce from excessive noise made by production machinery.

[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 

Visit our  blog

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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