

# Keeping people safe: the obsession with health and safety...

*Do you think you need eye protection to use highlighter pens? and that the "shadow of health and safety" is one of the biggest things holding people back. Not quite sure what from exactly, maybe overzealous highlighting?*

If the Prime Minister bothers to ridicule health and safety both in his big speech to party conference and when responding to the riots this summer – then the omens are not good for the outcome of the Lofstedt review of health and safety. This review has been told to concentrate on easing the burdens on business. Even if it is a damp squib the governments general deregulatory approach, with 35% cuts in HSE inspectors, will harm workers. In its submission to Lofstedt the TUC said it "will strongly oppose any attempt to reduce the level of protection at a time when over 20,000 people are killed every year as a result of work and 2.1 million are suffering from an injury or illness caused or made worse by work".

London Hazards Centre put in a short response to this enquiry, based on feedback from our members, concentrating on the asbestos regulations and safety reps regulations, also endorsing TUC's call for roving safety reps and maximum temperatures to be set. We don't accept the notion that offices, shops, schools are low risk – since we know many contain asbestos. Or that provision of qualified first aiders is a burden – when courses cost just over £300.

One of our members, a health and safety representative for the National Union of Teachers, has this to say about asbestos:

"Current asbestos regulations are the bare minimum needed to protect workers



*Safety reps say the Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations are the most important Regulations that should not be changed.*

from the dangers of asbestos. In fact, I would argue that for schools they need to be more stringent. Many of these schools were built with the intention of a 10–20 year life span in the 1970s but are still being used, in very poor condition, today. In several cases it has been shown that the deteriorating conditions of these schools is putting teachers, staff and children at risk (February 2008, ITN report Hay Lane School)."

We said we are concerned that in London many employers do not shoulder their responsibilities regarding basics like providing protective clothing such as

safety shoes – on building sites and also for canteen staff. Also that those falsely classed as self employed are not adequately protected.

The British Chamber of Commerce are also lobbying for the self-employed in low risk sectors to be exempt from health and safety law, so we made a point of noting "We think that it is right that the Health and Safety at Work Act extends to protection of the public, to aspects of homeworking and to the self-employed."

Construction union UCATT believes that in excess of 400,000 workers are currently falsely self-employed in the

# Hazards in Silkscreen Printing

*Many small artisan print shops specialise in silkscreen printing. They typically employ under five workers. Where factories are larger the work is usually split between textile printers and flatbed or graphical work.*

These small companies are in a niche industry – their staple work is high end for the art market: limited edition prints, graphical work or pieces on specialist materials. The textile work is often fashion sampling or small boutique runs.

The small size of the shops and individualistic nature of the trade has meant trade unionism is almost non-existent, as can be the case in the allied trades graphical design etc.

This has been a bosses dream and the trade is full of dangerous chemicals and unsafe practice. These small industries also often slip under the radar of health and safety and fire regulations due to their size until problems occur.

The major hazards in this process of printing comes from exposure to solvents, in the inks themselves, the clean up materials and associated thinners and retarders. Chemicals such as cyclohexamine, solvent naphtha, ethoxy propanol and even lead can be found in these products.

The greatest hazard is exposure through inhalation twinned with



inadequate or non-existent ventilation this causes narcosis (dizziness, headache, nausea and light-headedness) from acute exposures and skin, liver, kidney, reproductive and nervous system damage with repeated exposures.

Major problems also occur in the repeated handling and splashing of these materials often at that cleaning stages.

It is also important to remember the flammable nature of these products especially when combined with cleaning rags and paper stores.

*Continued from page 1*

construction industry with companies avoiding employers national insurance of 13.8 per cent for them. Falsely self-employed workers typically do not get proper safety training and are not provided with safety equipment.

In answer to question 7 about unreasonable outcomes, and inappropriate litigation, we told them about the £750 fine for Peter Juszczyz's avoidable death – he was only 21. (*Daily Hazard 98*) and we said "This was a small employer; we believe that large employers are not penalised adequately either. For example following the unlawful killing verdict for Kieron

Deeney, (*Daily Hazard 94*, 2007) we do not believe that Laing O'Rourke received a severe penalty – in fact despite a poor safety record (*Daily Hazard 89* and *90*) it was still awarded the Olympic Project."

Our response to Lofstedt forgot to mention the highlighters...

However maybe the Prime Minister got one thing about the riots right: "we need a social fight-back too, with big changes right through our society."

▲ TUC *Risks 516*, British Chamber of Commerce, Health and Safety a Risky Business, May 2011.

There are huge ecological issues – almost all small shops dispose of this waste and run off into the drainage system and being small enough to escape detection.

There are alternatives in the way of water based products that are slowly becoming available, ironically not because of concern for worker welfare but of the rising cost of oil and solvent based systems.

We need to highlight the dangers in these small industries and push toward safer alternatives.

## Goodbye Chris Tiff



Chris Tiff, UCATT organiser originally from Belfast, died 11 July 2011. Chris established the George Brumwell Learning Centre based at Canary Wharf which gives building workers the opportunity to develop skills in IT and English as well as take the CSCS Health and Safety Test. As well as being one of the pilot roving reps in construction, a scheme the major Contractors Group would not tolerate, Chris was one of the few people to put effort into building Workers Memorial Day every year. Michael Dooley, London Hazards Asbestos support worker says:

"I shared an office at UCATT with Chris for 12 years and we had a lot of good times from the word go; but there was a serious side to him when representing workers and he will be missed."

# London Fire Brigade Safety Blitz

*A fire safety awareness campaign has been launched across London by the Fire Brigade following the deaths of a mother and five of her children in Neasdon.*

The campaign will go into secondary schools. There is a special Fire Brigade Facebook page. Tips include checking appliances and fitting smoke alarms. One in ten homes still does not have one. Also plan how you would get out of your house if there were to be a fire. Always call 999 – don't try to tackle fires yourself.

## Neasdon House Fire

On 24 September six people died in what the Brigade describe as the worst house fire in the capital in a decade. The victims were Muna Elmufatish, 41, her teenage daughters Hanin, Basma, and Amal, 14, 13, and 9 years old; and sons Mustafa and Yehya, aged five and two. Early reports suggest the fire was started by a chest freezer in the house in Sonia Gardens.

## August Riots

An initial investigation into London Fire Brigade's activities during the civil disturbances shows that firefighters attended at least 807 fires between Saturday 6 August and Wednesday 10 August. The busiest single day for the Brigade came on Tuesday 9 August, when firefighters went to 263 fires – around one every five minutes, on average.

## Some more London Fires

The London Fire Brigade website has details of 33 fires in September including the house fire in Neasdon. Fires in tower blocks occurred in Erith, Stratford, Homerton, and there were fires in residential homes in Dagenham and North Harrow. There was also a fire in a car workshop in Thornton Heath.

There are details of 31 fires for October (up to 18th October) including fires in a block of flats in Highbury, in a care home in Catford. The industrial fires this month include fire and gas cylinder explosion at car workshop in Harrow, fires

at a wood recycling plant at West Drayton; at five industrial units in Uxbridge; at a plant nursery in Upminster, a restaurant in Soho, and storage units in Canning Town.

- ▲ See: <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/>
- ▲ The Brigade's Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/londonfirebrigade](http://www.facebook.com/londonfirebrigade)

## Lewisham: Marine Tower gets enforcement notice after two die in fire

London Fire Brigade served an enforcement notice on Lewisham Homes, owners of the Marine Tower block in Deptford, following a fire on the sixteenth floor in which two people died in February of this year. There were breaches of five fire safety regulations, including a failure to review the fire risk assessment, inadequate protection of emergency escape routes, inadequate maintenance of fire doors, and failure to establish an appropriate emergency plan. Resident Sandra Clarke was also charged with manslaughter and two counts of arson.

## Lakanal House investigation now at 'advanced' stage

The criminal investigation into events surrounding the Lakanal House fire on 3 July 2009 in which six people died has identified how the fire and smoke spread through the block and is now at an 'advanced stage', according to the Metropolitan Police who are considering whether anyone should face criminal charges. Detective Inspector Rick Murphy, leading the investigation, said: "This is a protracted and complex investigation and

although we are now at an advanced stage, we are still not yet in a position to release further information."

- ▲ From: info4fire  
<http://www.info4fire.com/news-content/> (March, September 2011)

## Study shows only 20% of staff aware of fire safety at their firm

A recent study of almost 1,561 employees found:

- ▲ 49% admitted to not having noticed printed health and safety records.
- ▲ 73% were unaware of health and safety processes
- ▲ Only 6% replied to be 'very knowledgeable'.

They were asked if they felt that their organization was effective in shielding them from health and safety threats at their workplace and 53% said No. Less than one-third confirmed the presence of health and safety managers at their work, 15% had no idea of their presence.

20% of the employees confirmed to knowing the fire safety processes at their workplace while only 25% of them knew where the first aid boxes were kept.

- ▲ Research by [personalinjurylawyers.co.uk](http://personalinjurylawyers.co.uk) reported at: <http://www.healthandsafetynews.co.uk>

## London's bad air

London is one of the worst European cities for air pollution ranking below average in a soot pollution league table drawn up by German environmentalists published in September. It was ranked low because of the 'backward steps' taken since 2005 when European limits for particulate matter (PM10) were introduced, particularly because Boris Johnson and TfL halved the size of the congestion charging zone, scaled back plans for hybrid buses and increased bus fares.

- ▲ Vidal,J, Guardian, 7 September 2011 • Full table at: <http://sootfreecities.eu/city>



# Romanian building workers' deaths

*The collapse of the ground floor on Ellerby Street, in Fulham in December 2010 lead to the killing of the Romanian steel worker – Anghel Milosavlevici, age 37, when the ground floor collapsed on top of him while doing excavations.*

Anghel was working alone in the basement, while his father, Gheorghe Milosavlevici and another friend, Bobby Risipitu were working on the ground floor. They "saw the ground starting to move and screamed at Anghel to get out. But he wasn't fast enough. .... He couldn't escape. A huge piece of concrete fell on him.... they couldn't lift the concrete. They watched him die".<sup>1</sup>

A week before Anghel was nearly electrocuted, "he was scared" and "he didn't feel safe. The Sunday before he died he promised .... he was going to quit and get a new job."<sup>1</sup>

The death of the Romanian steel worker has drawn the attention to safety during basement excavations in old houses. This accident was the latest in 2010 regarding basement conversions, as another person was killed in a similar accident in October, Chester Row in Belgravia, "was left like a 'bombsite' after a skip fell through the road".<sup>2</sup>

Even so, these accidents have not down-sized the approval of basement conversions by the Hammersmith and Fulham Council, 162 applications were "being given the green light"<sup>2</sup> in 2010. On Ellerby Street there have been at least 12 basement excavations or extensions 2 in recent years.

The HSE investigated the case, but no conclusions had been drawn one year later.

Two months before another Romanian worker, Mihai Hondru, age 39, died on Poplar Way, Ilford after being struck by a reversing construction

vehicle on M25 near Junction 29 at Upminster. Mihai Hondru was "buried six inches solid into the ground"<sup>3</sup> by the machine.

Mihai Hondru is the third workman to die on the M25 since 2004. Christopher Lewis, age 38 died after an articulated lorry ploughed through cones, striking his white works van, which pinned him against crash barriers in the Holmesdale Tunnel, Enfield, near the junction with the A10".<sup>4</sup> Richard Caddock, age 38 died after a tipper reversed over him at the Dartford section of the M255 in April 2008.

Mihai's only living relative was his mum, Paulina Hondru, age 78 who had to wait nearly 2 months for his body to be repatriated to Romania for the funeral. Several friends and his mum have written to the Romanian Embassy in London to require more details about the incident and they have not received any answers. In a Romanian newspaper, "Adevarul", Paulina Hondru declared: "I want my child home. I miss him a lot. I don't care what happen to him, as I only want to have him back home".<sup>5</sup>

This accident was investigated by HSE and the police to establish whether it is a work accident. The investigations have uncovered that Mihai Hondru was not given an employment contract.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23904493-father-can-only-watch-as-builder-is-crushed-by-collapsing-floor.do>
- 2 [ibid](#)
- 3 [http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/m25\\_industrial\\_death\\_tribute\\_1\\_718320](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/m25_industrial_death_tribute_1_718320)
- 4 <http://www.thisistotalexes.co.uk/Labourer-crushed-death-bulldozer/story-12628178-detail/story.html>
- 5 [http://www.adevarul.ro/locale/vaslui/Drama\\_unei\\_mame\\_din\\_judetul\\_Vaslui\\_-\\_lmi\\_vreau\\_copilul\\_acasa\\_0\\_379162760.html](http://www.adevarul.ro/locale/vaslui/Drama_unei_mame_din_judetul_Vaslui_-_lmi_vreau_copilul_acasa_0_379162760.html)

## Asbestos in Hammersmith and Bromley

### Hammersmith

*Residents of Riverside Gardens, Hammersmith and Fulham, were alarmed to find out that there was asbestos in their building at the point when the Council finally decided to hire specialists to remove the asbestos.*

Water storage tanks in the lofts are due to be replaced in work that will cost around £290,000. However the tanks contain asbestos in varying states of disrepair. The council did not inform residents to "avoid scaring them" but residents have complained to the local paper, Fulham Chronicle, about not being informed.

Osama Elshak, who lives on the estate, said: "I hadn't heard anything about this. I know that asbestos isn't dangerous as long as it's left alone, but as a resident this is the sort of thing that we should have known."

This incident comes after asbestos was recently disturbed in Fulham Library, then left in unmarked bags by unlicensed contractors with specialists only called in after a complaint was sent to the Health & Safety Executive.

It is the concern of London Hazards Centre that deadly asbestos is not always a high priority for many Councils. We

Check out our  
new look  
website at:  
[www.lhc.org.uk](http://www.lhc.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter  
@LondonHazards for selective  
retweets from NIOSH, HSE  
and others.

fear that cuts in current services will see shortcuts in the investigation and proper removal by licensed contractors of asbestos in properties and Council buildings.

### Bromley

*A Bromley contractor was fined nearly £20,000 plus costs, in the City of London Magistrates Court in October, for exposing workers and the public to asbestos when demolishing a restaurant on Bromley High Street in June last year.*

Asbestos insulating boards were smashed by three workers using sledgehammers and hand-operated breakers. HSE who prosecuted, found that Fadil Adil, overseeing the work, did not have a licence to work with asbestos, nor was he trained in construction management. At no point did the defendant carry out an asbestos survey, nor did he provide any guidance to the workmen regarding the presence of asbestos.

HSE say 3,231 Londoners died from the asbestos cancer mesothelioma between 2001 and 2005 – that figure will be higher for 2005–2010 and thousands more die from 'ordinary' lung cancer caused or made worse by exposure to asbestos.

▲ Rupert Basham, Fulham Chronicle, 12 October 2011.  
HSE press release COILDN/0610, 6 October 2011.

## London Hazards Advice Line

Free advice and support for Londoners on health and safety at work and in the community. We'll try to provide the level of support you need from a single phone call to long-term support for a local campaign.

**Helpline is at 020 7794 5999  
Monday to Thursday  
10am to 3pm**



*Liliana Alexa speaking at the 5th Anniversary of the Battersea Crane collapse at the Thessaly Road Memorial, 20 September 2011.*

## Michael and Jonathan remembered

At a small gathering to remember Michael Alexa and Jonathan Cloke – Jonathan the crane driver and Dragos-Michael Alexa resident who were killed five years ago when a Falcon Tower Crane collapsed in Thessaly Road, Battersea – Liliana Alexa, Michael's mother said that the Crown Prosecution Service had recently written to say they are not going to prosecute Douglas Genge, Managing Director of Falcon Cranes and "a controlling mind", for either

Corporate Manslaughter or Manslaughter by Gross Negligence. We have to wait until the Inquest (maybe at the end of February) to find out what exactly happened and who is responsible.

The memorial was attended by Michael's family, Construction Safety Campaign, Battersea and Wandsworth TUC, Martin Linton former MP for Battersea, and Jane Ellison the current MP, and other residents.

## New Regulations for Agency Workers

The Agency Workers Regulations came into force on 1 October 2011. The new regulations implement the EU Agency Workers Directive in 2008.

Under these regulations, agency staffs who have worked for 12 consecutive weeks at a company will be entitled to the same pay and other basic working conditions as the permanent staff whether they have worked a few hours a week or full time. From day 1 of hiring an agency worker, employers (the hirer) must ensure that the agency workers have access to facilities and can access information for job vacancies. As a hirer of agency workers, you must provide the agency worker with up to date information on your terms and conditions so that they can ensure correct equal

treatment is received after 12 weeks on the job. Agencies must also ask the hirer of agency workers for information about pay and basic working conditions when it is clear the agency worker will be in the same job with the same hirer for more than 12 weeks.

The regulations provide for a fine of up to £5000 for avoidance arrangements which are designed to prevent the 12 week qualifying period being met. Avoidance arrangements could include terminating agency worker's contract at 11 weeks or less.

▲ To get a full copy of the Agency Workers Regulations, please follow this link: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/a/11-949-agency-workers-regulations-guidance>

## London Hazards Asbestos Conference

The conference is taking place at **The Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1P 3BU on Friday 18 November 2011 at 10am.**

It aims to establish and develop networks to support asbestos victims in Greater London. The conference will develop a strategy to raise awareness among London communities of all the dangers and look at advances in treatments for asbestos diseases; the latest developments in legal remedies if damage results from negligence.

Speakers include:

- ▲ *Andy Slaughter* – MP, Labour Party Shadow Justice Minister
- ▲ *Gail Cartmail* – Unite National Construction Secretary

- ▲ *Simon Hester* – HSE Construction Inspector London and Prospect
- ▲ *William Cambell* – Chair London Boroughs Asbestos Group
- ▲ *Lisa Booth* – HASAG Support Group
- ▲ *Ian McFall* – Thompsons Solicitors
- ▲ *Terry Jago* – Asbestos Removal Contractors Association
- ▲ *Michael Lees* – Campaign against Asbestos in Schools
- ▲ *Tony O'Brien* – Construction Safety Campaign

Booking fee is £20 (includes refreshments) – free to victims and family members. Places are limited and early booking is strongly advised.

For the full program, contact Michael Dooley via email on [michaeldooley@lhc.org.uk](mailto:michaeldooley@lhc.org.uk) or on 020 7358 0322.

## Health and Safety Reps Seminar

The seminar is taking place at **Congress House, Great Russell Street, London on Friday, 25 Nov 2011 from 11am to 2pm.**

This seminar is primarily directed at trade union H&S Reps, but all union Reps and activists are welcome. The cost of attendance is free, and lunch is included.

There are two keynote speakers:

- ▲ *Judith Hackitt*, Chair of the Health & Safety Executive and
- ▲ *Hugh Robertson*, TUC Senior H&S Policy Officer

Speakers will cover the prospects and position of the HSE, and the outcomes of the Lofstedt Review and the Sickness Absence Review, and what they will mean to workers and their Reps.

To register interest or request more information, please use this link [http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/event\\_form.cfm?event=3327](http://www.tuc.org.uk/events/event_form.cfm?event=3327) or contact SERTUC on 020 7467 1220 ([www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sertuc))

### Construction Safety Campaign AGM

**Saturday 26 November 2011, Durham**

For details and booking contact the secretary at: [construction.safety.campaign@canhe.fsnet](mailto:construction.safety.campaign@canhe.fsnet)

## London Hazards Centre AGM

The AGM will be held in the **second week of December – details to follow.**

We are sending out affiliation reminders and would be grateful if you co-operate and pay promptly. If your branch contact details have changed since last year please let us know. We will only send out nomination forms and proxy votes to paid

up members in line with our constitution. There are vacancies for Directors/Trustees please contact us if you want to find out more about what this involves. We would like to encourage women, black, Asian and other safety reps or community safety campaigners from minority ethnic backgrounds to become Trustees.

USING THE CENTRE

## Training

### Course programme

#### ▲ **Basic Introduction to Health and Safety at Work**

Tuesday 6 December, 10am to 4pm  
Oxford House Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets

This taster course provides a basic introduction to health and safety at work. It looks at the main laws and at practical solutions to creating a safe working environment.

Oxford House is a community and art centre in the heart of London's East End – only 5 minutes walk from Bethnal Green tube.

To book contact:

[margaretsharkey@lhc.org.uk](mailto:margaretsharkey@lhc.org.uk)

### London Hazards training programme

We are able to offer the following topics for health and safety training. Some not for profit groups will be eligible for free training on condition they provide the venue, organise recruitment and copy materials (or small charge for materials). The courses are not accredited but our trainers are qualified and the basics of health and safety duties are covered.

- ▲ Accident Reporting and Investigation
- ▲ COSHH
- ▲ Display Screen Equipment
- ▲ General Health and Safety
- ▲ Induction
- ▲ Manual Handling
- ▲ Risk Assessment
- ▲ Slips, Trips and Falls
- ▲ Workplace Stress

We can cover some other topics but charges apply. Contact the Centre to find out more.



# Welfare Regulations

*The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 2002, cover a wide range of basic health, safety and welfare issues in most workplaces. These regulations do not apply to domestic premises.*

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 2002 expands on duties in the Health and Safety at Work Act, sections 2 and 4; and are intended to ensure adequate welfare facilities are provided for people at work, including those with disabilities. The following is a summary of measures covered by the Welfare Regulations:

## Health

### Ventilation

Workplaces should be adequately ventilated. Fresh, clean air should be drawn from a source outside the workplace. Ventilation should remove and dilute warm humid air and provide air movement which gives a sense of freshness without causing a draught. Windows and other openings may provide sufficient ventilation but where necessary, mechanical ventilation systems should be provided and maintained regularly.

### Lighting

Lighting should be sufficient to enable people to work and move about safely. If necessary, local lighting should be provided at individual workstations and at places of particular risk such as crossing points on traffic routes. Lighting and light fittings must not create any hazard. Automatic emergency lighting, powered by an independent source, should be provided where sudden loss of light would create a risk.

### Cleanliness

The workplace, furniture, furnishings and fittings, surfaces of floors, walls and

ceilings should be kept clean. Cleaning and waste removal should be carried out as necessary and effectively.

### Room dimensions and space

Workrooms should have enough free space to allow people to move about with ease. The Health and Safety Executive recommends that the volume of the room when empty divided by the number of people normally working in it should be at least 11 cubic metres.

### Workstations and seating

People should be able to leave workstations swiftly in an emergency. Seating should give adequate support for the lower back. Footrests should be provided for workers who cannot place their feet flat on the floor.

### Temperature in indoor workplaces

For workplaces where the activity is mainly deskbound, the temperature should normally be at least 16°C while those that require physical effort should be at least 13°C, (unless other laws allow lower temperatures).

### Work in hot or cold environments

The risk to the health of workers increases as conditions move further away from those generally accepted as comfortable. Those working in high air temperatures, high thermal radiation or high levels of humidity are at risk of heat stress while those working in cold stores, food preparation areas and in open air in winter are at risk of cold stress.

Assessment of the risks to workers' health from working in either a hot or cold environment needs to consider both personal and environment factors. Personal factors include body activity, the amount and type of clothing and duration of exposure. Environmental factors include ambient temperature and radiant heat, and if the work is outside, sunlight, wind velocity and the presence of rain or snow.

Actions arising from assessments may include:

- ▲ engineering measures to control the thermal effects in a workplace;
- ▲ restriction of exposure by re-organising tasks to fit in rest periods and other breaks from work.
- ▲ medical pre-selection of employees to ensure they are fit for work;
- ▲ personal protective clothing – either heat resistant or insulating depending on whether the risk is from heat or cold;
- ▲ slow acclimatisation of workers to the environment in which they work, particularly hot environments;
- ▲ training and supervision to ensure the precautions identified by the assessment are taken and that workers can spot the symptoms of heat and cold stress.

Further advice on thermal comfort in the workplace can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal](http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal)

## Safety

### Maintenance

The workplace, certain equipment, devices and systems should be maintained in efficient working order. The condition of all buildings needs to be monitored to ensure they have appropriate stability and solidity for their use.

### Floors and traffic routes

Traffic route refers to pedestrian traffic, vehicles or both and includes any stairs, fixed ladder, doorway, gateway, loading bay or ramp. These routes should be of sufficient width and headroom to allow people and vehicles move safely with ease.

### Vehicles and people

should have separate traffic routes or there must be clear markings, barriers or kerbs for safe walkways. Speed limits should be set and obeyed. Loading bays should have at least one exit point from the lower level or a refuge to avoid people being struck or crushed



by vehicles. Traffic routes should be planned so drivers do not need to reverse – it is difficult for drivers to see behind their vehicles when reversing.

### Open sides of staircases

These should be fenced with an upper rail at 900mm or higher and a lower rail. A handrail should be provided on at least one side of every staircase and on both sides if there is a particular risk. Access between floors should not be by ladders or steep stairs.

### Falls into dangerous substances

Dangerous substances in tanks, pits or other structures should be securely fenced and covered & Traffic routes securely fenced. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 concerns duties to prevent falls.

### Visibility and safety of doors and windows

Transparent or translucent doors, windows, etc should be made of safety material or be protected against breakage or marked or incorporate features to make it noticeable.

### Windows, skylights and ventilators

These should be capable of being opened, closed or adjusted safely and when open should not pose any undue risk to anyone. Windows and skylights should be designed so that they may be cleaned safely.

### Doors and gates

should be fitted with safety devices if necessary. Doors and gates which swing both ways should have a transparent viewing panel. Power assisted doors and gates should have safety features to prevent people being struck or trapped

and where necessary should have a readily identifiable and accessible control switch or device so that they can be stopped quickly in an emergency. Upward-opening doors or gates need to be fitted with an effective device to prevent them falling back.

### Escalators and moving walkways

These should function safely, be equipped with any necessary safety devices and be fitted with one or more easily identifiable and readily accessible emergency stop controls.

## Welfare

### Sanitary conveniences and washing facilities

Facilities need to be suitable and sufficient and should be provided at readily accessible places. They and the room containing them should be kept clean and be adequately ventilated and lit. Washing facilities should have running hot and cold or warm water, soap and a means of drying. Showers should be provided if required by the type of work. Men and women should have separate facilities unless each facility is in a separate room with a lockable door and is for use by only one person at a time.

### Drinking water

Adequate supply of high-quality drinking water with suitable cups should be provided. Water should be provided in refillable enclosed containers where it cannot be obtained directly from a mains supply.

### Accommodation for clothing and facilities for changing

Adequate, suitable and secure space

should be provided to store workers' own clothing and special clothing. Where possible, the facilities should allow for drying clothing. The facilities should be readily accessible from workrooms and must ensure privacy of the user, be of sufficient capacity and be provided with seating.

### Facilities for rest and to eat meals

Facilities should be suitable, sufficient and readily accessible. Seats with backrests and tables should be provided for breaks in a place where personal protective equipment need not be worn. Rest areas should be large enough for the number of workers likely to use them at any one time.

### Eating facilities

Facilities should include a facility for preparing or obtaining a hot drink, and a means for obtaining and /or heating food. Canteens or restaurants may be used as rest facilities provided there is no obligation to purchase food.

### Rest facilities

Suitable rest facilities should be provided for pregnant women and nursing mothers. They should be near to sanitary facilities and where necessary, include a facility to lie down.

From *Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare – A short guide for managers* ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)). Further information can be also obtained from the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 on the same website.

Factsheets online [www.lhc.org.uk](http://www.lhc.org.uk) London advice 020 7794 5999



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