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WINTER DRIVING ADVICE

[MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER](#)

Highways England, which is responsible for the country's motorways and major A roads, has issued advice to motorists on coping with wintry weather conditions. That advice is:

- In snow and ice drivers should stick to the main roads where possible and only travel if necessary. Drivers are also encouraged to make sure they have a winter kit in their vehicle, including an ice scraper and de-icer, warm clothes and blankets and sunglasses.
- In high winds drivers should slow down and avoid using exposed sections of road if possible, Lorries, caravans and motorbikes are at particular risk.
- In heavy rain drivers should keep well back from the vehicle in front, gradually ease off the accelerator if the steering becomes unresponsive, and slow down if the rain and spray from vehicles makes it difficult to see and be seen.
- In fog drivers should switch on their fog lights and not use lights on full beam as the fog will reflect the light back. If drivers really cannot see, they should consider stopping until it is safe to continue.

DISABILITY LIFT DEATH

Housing association and lift co fined £1.5m for five-year-old's death

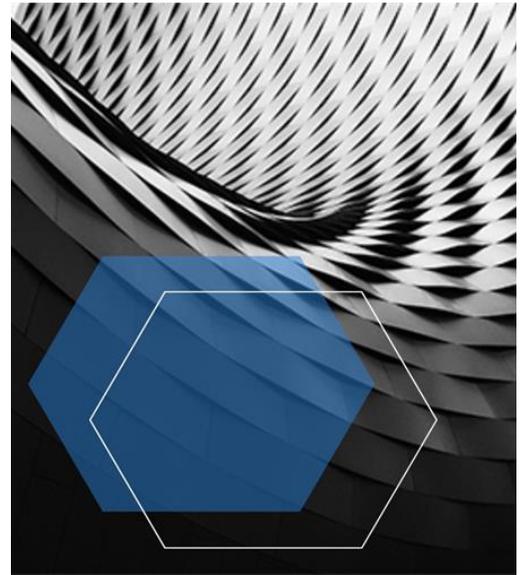
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into the fatality in Emmadale Close on 13 August 2015 identified a host of failures by the three companies.

As the property's owner, Synergy Housing had primary responsibility for the lift's safety while sister company Aster Property arranged the lift's maintenance. Both are part of housing association the Aster Group, which describes itself on its website as an ethical landlord.

Lift installer Orona was responsible for servicing the lift every six months. Aster Property had taken over the management of the contract with Orona on behalf of Synergy Housing in June 2013.

Bournemouth Crown Court was told that when Matthew and Lorraine Brown moved into the three-bedroom property with their children in 2009, the disability lift was already installed. Their 11-year-old son Jack, who suffers from a degenerative neurological condition and is wheelchair-bound, used the lift to get to the first floor.

On the day of the fatality, Jack's sister Alexys got into the lift to retrieve his mobile phone. She put her head through a hole in the vision panel and, as the lift moved upward, her head was trapped between the lift and the ground floor ceiling. The BBC reported that firefighters had to cut her free as there was no emergency key or handle to lower the lift. She died of her crush injuries at the



On 12 May 2015, Orona sent an engineer to inspect the lift. After completing a service inspection, he noted "glass door is smashed" in his report but no action was taken to fix the broken panel. HSE inspector Leo Diez said that safety-critical work had been missed over a long period, which meant that "the lift became more dangerous for the Brown family to use."

According to HSE guidance, lifts that carry people should be inspected every six months. But the Browns' lift had only been serviced four times between 2009 and 2015 and had not been thoroughly examined since 2012. No lift inspections had been carried out between December 2013 and 12 May 2015.

The Browns had not been given a manual explaining how to operate the lift safely. In addition, no risk assessment had been carried out. Concerns raised by Jack's health workers were not taken seriously enough, the HSE found.

Orona, of Europe View, Sheffield Business Park, Sheffield, which had also pleaded guilty in August to the same breach, was fined £533,000. It must also pay £40,000 costs.

Synergy Housing, of Link House, West Street, Poole, which had pleaded guilty to breaching s 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act at Bournemouth Crown Court in August 2018 must pay £1m and £40,000 costs. The charge against Aster Property was ordered to be left on the court file.





HSE SAFETY ALERT

TOWER CRANE, SLEW BRAKES AND RELEASE MECHANISM MAINTENANCE

HSE is investigating the collapse of a tower crane jib in high wind. The precursors of the incident are not fully determined at this point but investigations to date suggest that problems with adequate maintenance of the slew brake release mechanisms and the addition of accessories were contributing factors. We would remind all tower crane owners and users of some precautions and procedures that should be followed to ensure that risk of collapse or overturn in high wind is minimised. This safety alert advises on the steps to be taken to ensure that tower crane slew brakes and their release mechanisms are maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good

good repair and to ensure that the addition of accessories to the tower crane structure do not compromise the free slew characteristics of the jib such as to contribute to the potential for collapse.

Investigations have found that inspection and maintenance history for some tower cranes do not always take into account exchange of individual component parts.

Those who own, use, inspect, maintain tower cranes must ensure that:

A tower crane's slew motor brakes and their release mechanisms should all be inspected at the same time and maintained to ensure the same efficient state, efficient working order and good repair.

Tower crane components i.e. slew motors, slew brakes, brake mechanisms, should contain unique reference markings to enable component identification and traceability throughout inspection/maintenance regimes.

Tower crane components should be traceable in any associated inspection and maintenance documentation.

Inspection and maintenance documentation shall permit individual crane component reference markings and all information/observations/measurements to be recorded against that component.

The inspection and maintenance system permits the re-assignment and traceability of crane components between different cranes.

Size and location of crane signage, advertising, posters, illuminated media etc. should meet with the crane manufacturer's approval and specifications before any such additions are made.



A NEW FACE

TESSA HEMPELL JOINS THE AGA INSPECTION TEAM

AGA are pleased to introduce the newest member of the team, Tessa Hempell.

Tessa is a pragmatic Health and Safety professional with a strong interest in the construction industry. Tessa started her Health and Safety career as a volunteer covering RC Frame projects. She joins us from Safety Revolution Ltd where she was exposed to warehouse builds within the farming industry where she carried out Site Inspections and wrote up the findings. On the weekends Tessa competes her warmblood horse; both eventing and show jumping and enjoys spending time outdoors with a variety of friends and other animals. She enjoys concerts, race days and winter sports such as skiing.

CDM REGULATIONS BREACH FINE

TWO CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES FINED FOLLOWING ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AT A SCHOOL

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found PC Ashe Construction had appointed cladding installer Cladceil to carry out the refurbishment at Oakwood Junior school in Derby on 1 August 2016 during the school holidays. The Nottingham-based company had subcontracted the work to another company and its workers had been asked to remove suspended ceiling tiles from rooms in the school.

Unaware of the risk, two workers entered a storage room and started to remove ceiling tiles made of asbestos containing materials, potentially exposing themselves to the harmful fibres. A licensed asbestos removal company working on the site alerted management and the removal work was stopped to deal with the contamination.

The HSE found Ashe Construction had failed to effectively plan, manage and monitor the work to prevent the accidental removal of the contaminated tiles. It had also failed to explain the location of the asbestos, leaving the storage room open without barriers or signs warning of the hazardous material.

Cladceil also failed to effectively plan, manage and monitor the work. Although it had appointed a subcontractor, the cladding installer only provided the company with a generic risk assessment and method statement, which failed to identify important information, including the asbestos risk.

Hitchin-based Ashe Construction, pleaded guilty to breaching reg 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and s 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act at Derby Crown Court. The PC was fined £100,000 and must pay £9,760 costs. Cladceil pleaded guilty to reg 15(2) of CDM 2015 and was fined £12,000 with £47,184 costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrew Bowker said: "The exposure to asbestos could so easily have been avoided if the two companies involved had put sufficient effort into planning, managing and monitoring the ceiling tile removal work."

FREE CPD ON THE CDM REGULATIONS 2015

We carried out a CPD on the CDM Regulations 2015 at ThirdWay Interiors Ltd to help them better understand their role and legal responsibilities as Principal Contractors and Principal Designers. Thirdway supply commercial interior fit out and office refurbishment services across the UK.

Do you need help understanding the CDM Regulations 2015?

Not sure if you are complying with your duties correctly?

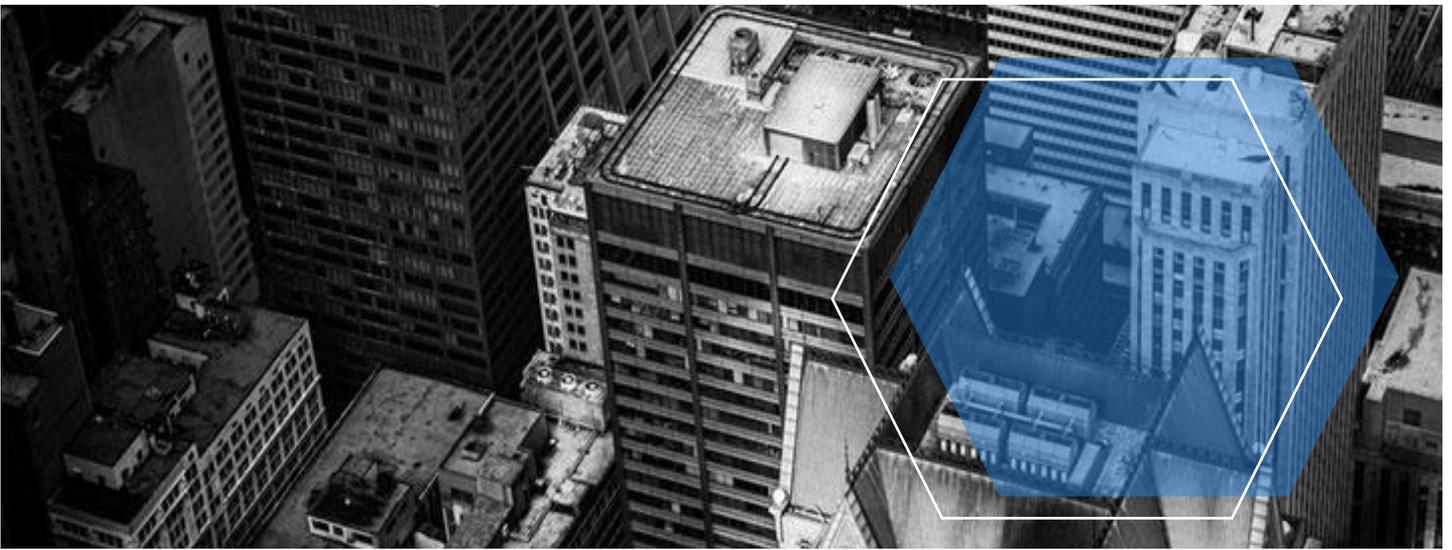
We offer a free CPD consultation to keep you up to date.

One of our experienced CDM Consultants will attend your offices or a location of your choosing and provide up to the minute, competent advice.

We cover everything from Duty Holders to Design Risk Management and welcome any questions or scenarios you need help with.

Please get in touch if this would be of interest to you.





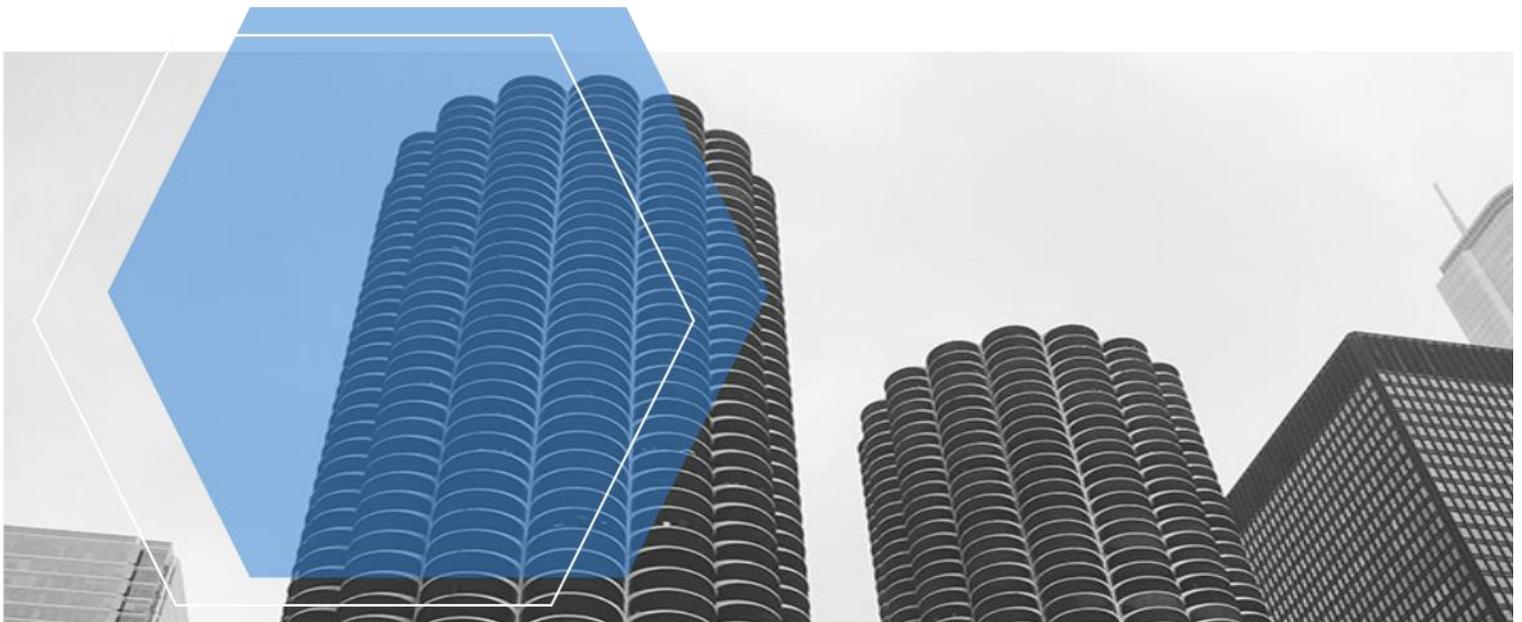
LATEST HSE INSPECTION INITIATIVE

THE HSE'S LATEST CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION INITIATIVE: FOCUSED ON HEALTH

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have begun their newest construction inspection initiative, in place until 17 February. The Initiative is predominantly for London sites, focusing on health, in particular, asbestos work. The initiative will look at the measures in place to protect workers from occupational lung disease when carrying out common construction tasks.

The HSE inspectors will be looking to ensure that individuals that are involved with construction projects know the risks involved, properly plan their work and use the right controls. Wherever poor standards are found during inspections, enforcement action will be taken.

This initiative has been designed to target ill-health and work. Thousands more workers suffer from ill-health at work than are harmed by at-work accidents. The HSE estimates that around 8,000 work related cancer deaths occur every year. The construction industry accounts for around 3,500 of these, with asbestos and silica being the major causes.



CONSTRUCTION PHASE PLAN & MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

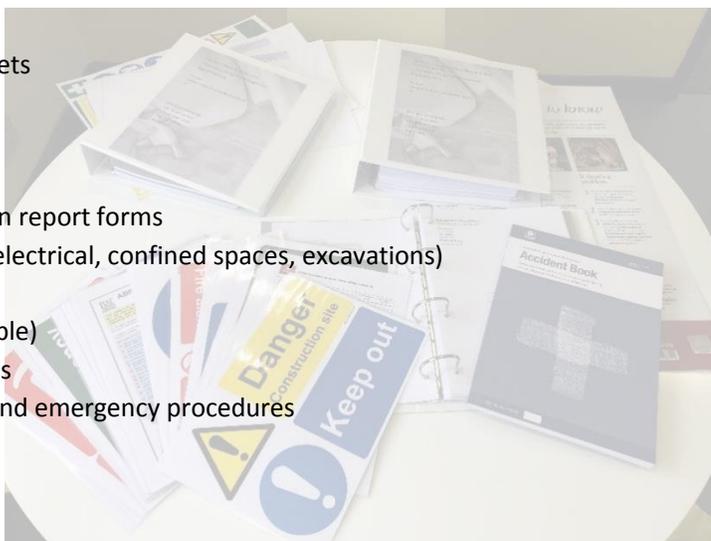
CDM Regulations 2015 – Regulation 12.1; *“During the pre-construction phase, and before setting up a construction site, the principal contractor must draw up a construction phase plan or make arrangements for a construction phase plan to be drawn up.”*

The client has a duty to ensure that the construction phase plan is prepared before the construction phase begins. The plan outlines the health and safety arrangements, site rules and specific measures concerning any work involving the particular risks listed in Schedule 3 of CDM 2015.

Our Safety Management System comprises 3 folders full of all the documentation and signage a Site Manager will need to effectively manage safe working practices on site. This system includes a comprehensive and site-specific Construction Phase Plan tailored to your project covering all aspects of site security, traffic management arrangements, Site Rules, Fire and Emergency arrangements and more.

As well as the construction phase plan, our safety management system includes;

- A start up checklist to help your site manager set up their site from day one to be legally compliant
- Blank Method Statement and Risk Assessment templates including vulnerable workers risk assessments
- Induction forms and register
- Fire Risk Assessment forms
- RAMS Review Checklist and communication sheets
- Daily sign in sheets
- Site Diary sheets
- Site and Plant Inspection forms
- Near miss and accident register and investigation report forms
- Permits to work (Hot works, working at height, electrical, confined spaces, excavations)
- Example risk assessment templates
- Your companies Health & Safety Policy (if available)
- HSE Guidance on common construction practices
- Laminated signage/posters including site rules and emergency procedures
- COSHH Register
- Toolbox talks
- Accident Book



Once the safety management system is complete, one of our consultants will deliver everything to site and discuss with the site manager how to effectively use all documentation provided and put in practices to monitor site procedures going forwards. 2 -4 weeks following delivery of the files, a consultant will visit site to carry out a free follow up inspection to identify any issues and to offer any advice needed.

CDM Regulations 2015 – Regulation 12.2; *“The construction phase plan must set out the health and safety arrangements and site rules taking account, where necessary, of the industrial activities taking place on the construction site and, where applicable, must include specific measures concerning work which falls within one or more of the categories set out in Schedule 3.”*



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