



STOP. MAKE A CHANGE CAMPAIGN

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From 9 to 13 September, organisations that sign up to join the campaign will temporarily halt work in sites, offices and production facilities to hold focused discussions on health, safety and wellbeing.

Launched in April 2017, with the involvement of 60 companies employing 60,000 workers, the event was extended to cover the wider construction sector in April 2018 when more than 100 companies and 100,000 employees took part.

The seven topics for this year's event were identified by the Infrastructure Client Group (ICG), which was set up by the Institution of Civil Engineers to discuss commercial issues but later broadened its scope to health and safety.

Members will develop action plans aiming to eliminate, by 2025, illness and injury related to:

- people and mobile plant;
- mental health;
- striking buried services;
- lifting operations;
- heavy goods vehicle operations;
- hand arm vibration-related disease; and
- public safety.

As part of the campaign, customers, contractors and suppliers are encouraged to make specific commitments to improve performance in priority areas and share best practice.

The campaign was developed by a group of major contractors co-ordinated by the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA). However, the campaign stresses that organisations of any size are welcome to support it.

CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner said: "Stop. Make a Change has gone from strength to strength since its launch in 2017, becoming a construction-wide initiative for companies of all sizes to participate in.

"Together industry is working to make sure we address the key health, safety and wellbeing risks that our sector faces.

"It is imperative that this momentum is maintained if we are to generate real change in how the construction sector operates."

ANNUAL FATALITY FIGURES

HSE RELEASES ANNUAL WORKPLACE FATALITY FIGURES

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has today released its annual figures for work-related fatal injuries for 2018/19 as well as the number of people known to have died from the asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma, in 2017.

The provisional annual data for work-related fatal injuries revealed that 147 workers were fatally injured between April 2018 and March 2019 (a rate of 0.45 per 100,000 workers).

There has been a long-term reduction in the number of fatalities since 1981. Although 2018/19 saw an increase of 6 workplace fatalities from 2017/18, the number has remained broadly level in recent years.

The new figures show how fatal injuries are spread across the different industrial sectors. Agriculture, forestry and fishing, and Construction sectors continue to account for the largest share of fatal injuries to workers (32 and 30 deaths respectively in 2018/19).

The three most common causes of fatal injuries continue to be; workers falling from height (40), being struck by a moving vehicle (30) and being struck by a moving object (16), accounting for nearly 60 per cent of fatal injuries in 2018/19.



PAT TESTING NEED TO KNOW

What the law says?

The law requires that all landlords, employers and even self-employed individuals make sure that their electrical appliances are safe, suitable and used for their intended purpose. The regulations related to this, including: The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, the Housing Act 2004 (England and Wales) and the Housing Act 2014 (Scotland).

Compliance

Portable appliance testing (PAT) has become a fundamental requirement for ensuring electrical safety in the workplace.



PAT testing is the examination of electrical appliances and equipment to see if maintenance is required and ensure they are safe for continued use. Many electrical safety defects can be found by visual examination, but some types of defect can only be found by carrying out testing.

Testing and maintenance

Any person carrying out electrical safety checks should be competent to do so with equipment that is fit for purpose and within calibration, to ensure the validity of the results obtained from the testing process etc.

If you have suitable resource and expertise within the company, you can carry out the PAT testing in house. However, if that's not the case, it is worth employing a contractor to carry out the testing for you.

As with any contractor you employ, it is important to carry out checks on competence, risk assessments, insurances, method statements etc. ahead of commencing work.

SINGAPORE VR TEST HEALTH & SAFETY

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT A NEW SAFETY SCHOOL IN SINGAPORE ARE USING VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE WORK AT HEIGHT PRACTICES



Operated by the Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL) Academy and launched on 14 June, the S\$2.2m (£1.3m) construction safety school allows workers to experience the risks in a safe environment.

Donning VR headsets, workers get to learn that, unless they rectify unsafe practices such as a lack of guard rails, they may witness the shock of seeing a virtual co-worker fall off a building.

The purpose of the training is to heighten vigilance at construction sites. The sector's workplace fatal injury rate rose to 3.1 per 100,000 employees in 2018, with 14 fatalities, two more than in the previous year.

The Straits Times reported that, from 15 May this year there had already been nine workplace fatalities across all industries, including six in construction.

LUNCHTIME CLASSES REDUCE OBESITY

ORGANISATIONS ARE BEING URGED TO PROMOTE LUNCHTIME FITNESS CLASSES TO MANAGE OBESITY IN THE WORKPLACE

New guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) also advises companies to promote the use of stairs instead of lifts and provide information about safe active travel routes to work "to reduce sedentary behaviour".

The NICE Quality Standard on physical activity suggests that employers can encourage staff to be more active by highlighting lunchtime classes at a local gym, such as yoga or spinning, and offering subsidised gym memberships.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that more than 131 million working days were lost to sickness in 2017, including 13 million working days lost to stress, depression or anxiety.

Professor Gillian Leng, deputy chief executive and director of health and social care at NICE, said: "If the UK's 5.7 million small businesses encouraged their workplace to be more active, they are more likely to reap the benefits of having engaged employees who are more productive and are less likely to take time off sick. Simple things like providing secure bicycle storage, showers and changing facilities can go a long way to enabling people to cycle to work or to meetings.

"As a society we are facing an obesity crisis caused in part by people not exercising enough. We need people to change their lifestyle and to take more exercise. If they can do this during the working day, not only will they benefit, but so too will their employers and the NHS [National Health Service]. It's a win, win for everyone."

Public health minister Seema Kennedy said: "We have a world leading plan to tackle obesity with prevention at its core, and later this summer we will be setting out further action on obesity and physical activity through a prevention green paper.

"It is vital that employers embrace prevention to ensure their staff stay fit and health. Having seen first-hand in my department the positive impact running clubs can have, I welcome the launch of the quality standard as another way to encourage communities to stay active."



INEFFECTUAL FACE MASKS LETHAL

FLOOR LAYER KILLED BY TOXIC ADHESIVE WAS WEARING 'COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL' FACE MASK

Paul Tilcock had been using an adhesive that contained toxic solvents to fix a bathroom floor at a house in Mitcham, south London. The 30-year-old was found dead on the floor by the homeowner on 4 September 2015.

Altro, the flooring company that supplied the adhesive, admitted that it had failed to ensure so far as was reasonably practicable that the product was safe to use. It pleaded guilty to breaching S6(4) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was fined £500,000 at Westminster Magistrates' Court and ordered to pay £34,773 costs.



The main component of the flooring adhesive was dichloromethane (DCM), which poses inhalation risks and is a restricted substance under the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said that the maintenance contractor, T Brown Group, did not have any systems or procedures in place to control the risks to its employees from working in an enclosed space with DCM.

Its investigation revealed that it was left to the employees to decide what type of respiratory protection to wear, or whether to wear it at all.

When Tilcock's body was found, he was wearing a "completely ineffectual" face mask, Westminster Magistrates' Court was told.

T Brown Group was fined £250,000 and must also pay costs of £23,936 after it pleaded guilty to breaching s 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

HSE inspector Peter Collingwood said: "It is important that companies have an appreciation of their duties (whether to its employees or its customers) and have effective systems and procedures in place to ensure that those duties are fulfilled."

£800,000 FINE AFTER WORKER STRUCK

Andrew Stuart was working on the construction of a piling platform at Redhill Station in Surrey in 2017 when one of the blocks hit him on the head, fracturing three of his vertebrae.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said BAM had not used appropriate lifting accessories, such as chains or straps, to transport the load.

On 20 January an EPS block slipped from the excavator bucket whilst being lowered into place. The HSE's



investigation found the lifting operation had not been properly planned and the block was simply held between the arm of the excavator and the bucket.

The company admitted breaching s 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was been fined £833,333 and ordered to pay £5,478 costs at Brighton Magistrates' Court.

HSE inspector Andrew Cousins said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply using appropriate lifting accessories such as chains and strops to carry out the lifting operation."

A QUICK GUIDE TO RISK ASSESSMENTS



You must review and update this record, for example if anything changes.

Think about what might cause harm to people in your workplace and decide whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent or control that harm.

This process is called risk assessment and it will tell you whether you have covered all you need to. Try not to overcomplicate the process.

Think about the hazards

Look around your workplace and think about what may cause harm (these are called hazards). What is it about the activities, processes or substances used that could injure or harm you, an employee or a member of the public/visitor?

Look at who might be harmed and how

For each hazard, think how employees or others such as contractors, visitors or members of the public might be harmed – it will help you identify the best way of controlling the risk. Ask your employees what they think the hazards are.

Decide how you will control the risks

Decide how likely it is that harm will occur and what to do about it. You are not expected to remove all risks, but you must make sure you know what the main ones are and what you should do to manage them responsibly.

Look at the controls you already have in place and ask yourself:

- Can you get rid of the hazard altogether?
- If you can't get rid of a hazard, how can you control the risk so that harm is unlikely?

As an employer, you must make a 'suitable and sufficient assessment' of risks to your employees' health and safety, and risks to others not in your employment that are created because of your work.

The law says that as an employer you must assess and control the risks in your workplace. You need to think about what might cause harm to people and decide whether you are doing enough to prevent that harm.

If you have five or more employees, you must write down what you've found. That record should include:

- the hazards (things that may cause harm)
- how they may harm people
- what you are already doing to control the risks



Record your findings

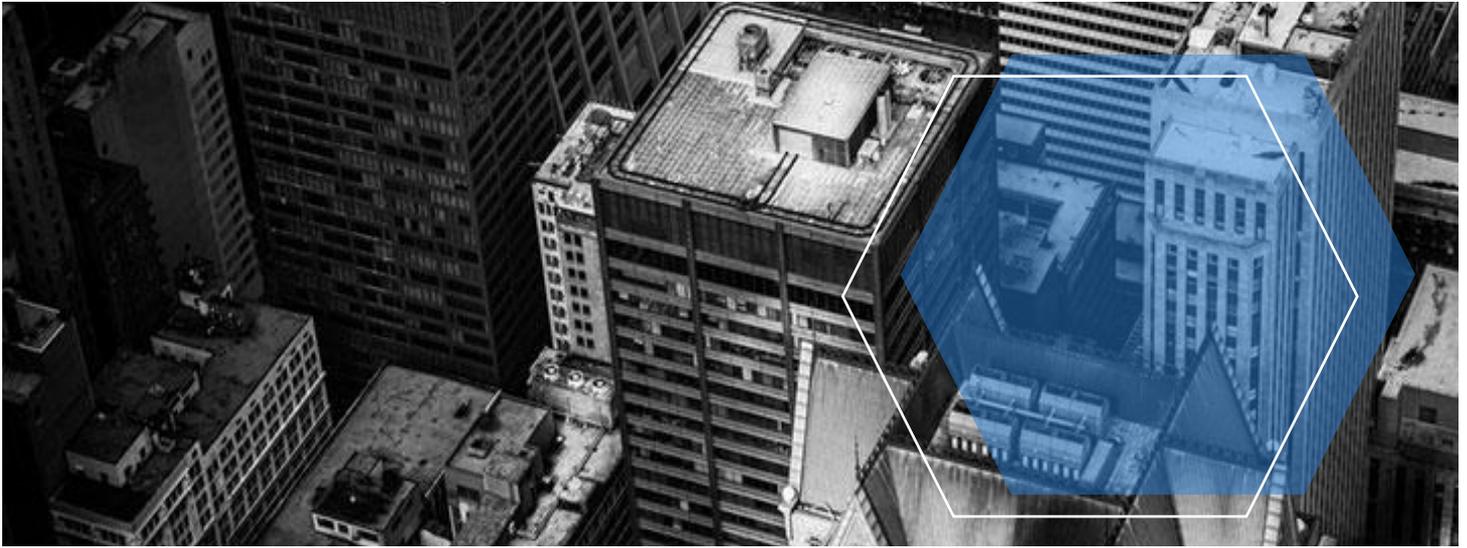
If you have five or more employees, you must record your significant findings. Make a simple record of the hazards, how people might be harmed and what you have in place to control the risks. It is a good idea to do this even if you have fewer than five employees.

Review your risk assessment

Changes in equipment, substances, procedures and staff could lead to new risks. If there have been any important changes, you must review and update your risk assessment

Ask yourself:

- Has the process changed?
- Have the substances or equipment used in the process changed?
- Have your workers identified a problem?
- Have you learnt anything from accidents or near misses?



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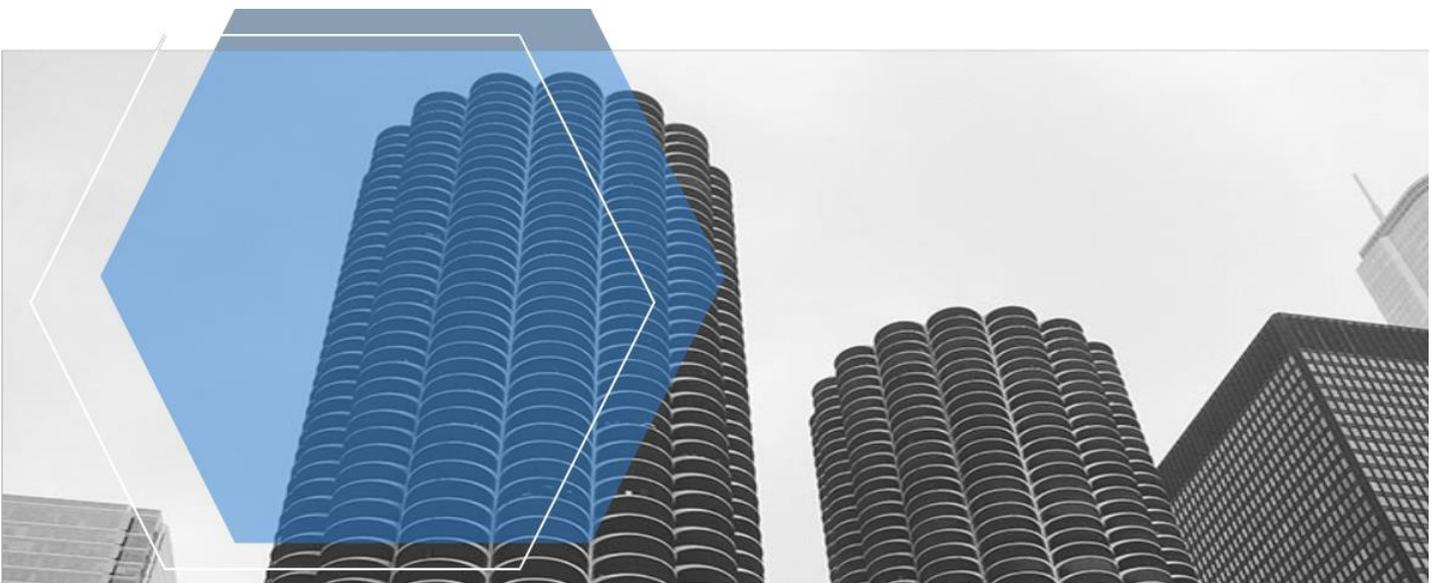
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