



**Health & Safety  
Executive**

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## HEALTH INSPECTION INITIATIVE – OCTOBER 2019

### WHAT:

Between 7 October - 1 November, HSE will be carrying out its latest construction inspection initiative.

This will continue the focus on health, in particular the measures in place to protect workers from occupational lung disease caused by asbestos, silica, wood and other dusts when carrying out common construction tasks.

### WHY:

Priority is often given to safety but thousands more workers suffer ill-health at work than are harmed by at-work accidents.

Asbestos and dust are slow killers. HSE estimates that annually there are around 8,000 work-related cancer deaths a year. The construction industry accounts for around 3,500 of these with asbestos and silica the major causes. Construction businesses and workers need to be aware of how dangerous and hazardous to someone's health such substances can be.

### HOW:

Inspectors will be looking to ensure those involved with construction projects know the risks, properly plan their work and use the right controls.

Where poor standards are found, enforcement action will be taken.

## Get ready for World Mental Health Day on October 10 by downloading free resources from St Johns Ambulance

They've created an array of free resources to help organisations improve mental health awareness and support in the workplace.

We encourage businesses to place equal importance on mental health first aid and physical first aid provision. We believe that businesses need to start taking ownership of employee wellbeing, and to help your business achieve this, St Johns Ambulance have created an array of free resources to support you.

Please feel free to share all our resources with your colleagues, as well as embed them within your organisational mental health strategy.

Our free resources include:

[Mental health first aider poster](#) •

[Workplace mental health & wellbeing checklist](#) •

[Mental health wallet/purse advice cards](#) •

.....and much more! •



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR WHOLE RANGE OF NEW ONLINE COURSES

Whether you're looking to improve your own knowledge, or provide training to employees, AGA Ltd.'s new e-Learning portal will allow you to book easy to follow e-learning courses in a number of areas. Each course is followed by a short test to clarify your understanding regarding that topic, which after successful completion, you will be issued with a certificate. Get up to date, specialist training in Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, Fall Prevention, the Construction Design & Management Regulations 2015, Risk Assessments Manual Handling, Fire Safety and many more.

## PLEASE SPONSER ANNA FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Our very own Associate Director, Anna Plater, will be running the Oxford Half Marathon on 13<sup>th</sup> October this year.

She is raising money for Cancer Research UK and would greatly appreciate any donations using the link below:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/annas-giving-page-312>

Many Thanks!



CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK

# CDM BREACH EQUALS £35,000 FINE

COMPANY FINED FOLLOWING MULTIPLE SAFETY FAILINGS ON CONSTRUCTION SITE



A construction company has today been fined after failing to ensure the safety and welfare of workers on site during the renovation of a property.

Preston Magistrates' Court heard how, between 12 December 2015 and 14 June 2018, Navkaar Limited put its workers at serious risk of personal injury or death at a construction site in Blackpool. The company failed to prevent risks from falls from height, exposure to asbestos and dangerous electrical systems. There were no suitable welfare facilities and no measures to prevent fire on site.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that workers on site had carried out work in an unsafe manner without the appropriate measures in place to ensure their health, safety and welfare. The employees and contractors on site did not have the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to complete the work. Navkaar Limited

failed to comply with their duty as principal contractor to plan, manage and monitor the work being carried out on site.

Navkaar Limited of Station Approach, Northwood pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £35,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,860.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jacqueline Western, said: "These risks could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

## NEW DARTFORD PROJECT TAKES OFF



The scheme is a town centre mixed use regeneration project with the aim to create a new cultural quarter in the centre of Dartford.

The project will contain the following elements:

- A new Central Public space
- Cinema
- Hotel
- Surgery
- Housing
- Retail
- Car parking

AGA are very proud to be supporting TP Bennet in their role as Principal Designer on the scheme.

# PREVENTING FIRE IN THE WORKPLACE

Most fires are preventable. To prevent fire in your workplace, employers must carry out a fire risk assessment

## What do I have to do?

Employers (and/or building owners or occupiers) must carry out a fire safety risk assessment and keep it up to date. This shares the same approach as health and safety risk assessments and can be carried out either as part of an overall risk assessment or as a separate exercise.

Based on the findings of the assessment, employers need to ensure that adequate and appropriate fire safety measures are in place to minimise the risk of injury or loss of life in the event of a fire.

To help prevent fire in the workplace, your risk assessment should identify what could cause a fire to start, i.e. sources of ignition (heat or sparks) and substances that burn, and the people who may be at risk.



Once you have identified the risks, you can take appropriate action to control them. Consider whether you can avoid them altogether or, if this is not possible, how you can reduce the risks and manage them. Also consider how you will protect people if there is a fire.

- Carry out a fire safety risk assessment
- Keep sources of ignition and flammable substances apart
- Avoid accidental fires, e.g. make sure heaters cannot be knocked over
- Ensure good housekeeping at all times, e.g. avoid build-up of rubbish that could burn
- Consider how to detect fires and how to warn people quickly if they start, e.g. installing smoke alarms and fire alarms or bells
- Have the correct fire-fighting equipment for putting a fire out quickly
- Keep fire exits and escape routes clearly marked and unobstructed at all times
- Ensure your workers receive appropriate training on procedures they need to follow, including fire drills
- Review and update your risk assessment regularly



# HAND-ARM VIBRATION (L140)

THE HSE GUIDANCE BOOK L140, HAND-ARM VIBRATION, HAS BEEN REVISED

The new edition has been updated in keeping with changes to related legislation, technical advances and experience. The emphasis is on the control and management of risks from exposure to hand-arm vibration (HAV).

**HSE's policy on the control of HAV has not changed.**

HAV is a hazard for employees in many industries and occupations. Regular and frequent exposure to HAV can lead to hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) and carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS).

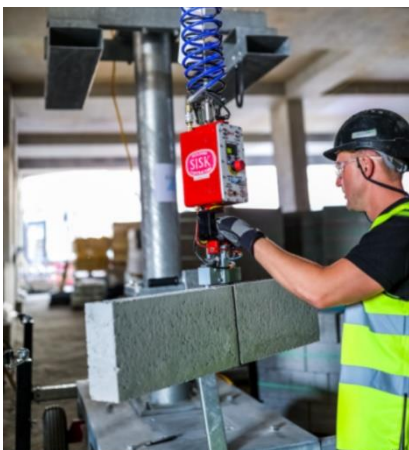
HAVS is a permanent disease, causing disability which can progress with continued exposure to HAV. HAVS and vibration-induced CTS together account for two thirds of the ill-health cases reported through RIDDOR.

**Following HSE guidance will reduce incidence and prevent progression of disease.**

The book can be purchased through HSE Books or it is available at our website to be downloaded for free



## ROBOTIC LIFTING MAKES GIANT BLOCKS WEIGHTLESS AT SISK SITE



John Sisk & Son has introduced a robotic lifting system at its Wembley site which makes bricks and blocks weightless.

The Material Unit Lift Enhancer (MULE) was developed by New York based company Construction Robotics.

It is now operational at Sisk's Wembley Park E05 site where it is being used in the construction of a multi-storey car park.

MULE is a lift assist device for materials weighing up to 134lbs which feel weightless to site workers.

Sisk said the machine is not designed to replace bricklayers or masons but "improve their working conditions and enable them to focus on other aspects such as the pointing of brickwork."

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Special oversize blocks have been created for the Wembley trial to increase productivity.

The new larger, heavier block can be safely moved into place thanks to the lifting capacity of the MULE and has a significant effect on increasing build productivity and efficiency.

Sisk CEO, Steve Bowcott, said: "We are always looking at new, innovative ways to enhance productivity and make conditions safer for our workforce.

Scott Peters, President and Co-Founder of Construction-Robotics said: "Construction Robotics is excited to be working with John Sisk & Son to bring the MULE technology to the UK to benefit the health of the worker and to add to the construction markets through new methods to improve productivity for installing block materials.

# AGA WEDDING!

CONGRATULATIONS TO HANNAH, OUR PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, ON HER MARRIAGE TO CRAIG!

AGA would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Hannah & Craig who were married on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

The wedding was held at the beautiful Primrose Hill Farm in Oxfordshire.

We wish you all the best as you begin your lives together.



## AGA NOW OFFER FACE FITTING

AGA now have 6 fully qualified Face Fit Testers ready to come to your sites

Where respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is used as a control measure under Health and Safety Legislation, it is vital that the selected RPE is adequate and suitable.



RPE must reduce exposure to as low as reasonably practicable, and in any case to an acceptable level (e.g. below any applicable Workplace Exposure Limits or Control Limits).

To ensure that the selected RPE has the potential to provide adequate protection for individual wearers, the ACoPs supporting COSHH, CAR and CLAW stipulate that tight-fitting RPE must be fit tested as part of the selection process. This will help to ensure that inadequately fitting facepieces are not selected for use. Ill-fitting facepieces can create inward leakages of airborne contaminants.

AGA can advise you on:

- The different types of RPE available
- The different grades of RPE and how to understand what is the right RPE for the task
- The different exposure hazards and ill health from working with wood, silica and construction dust
- The law and requirements for RPE use
- How to correctly fit RPE

We can then test the face fit of RPE on your operatives using our testing kit and provide certification for each operative.

Prices start from £25 per person. AGA will come out to your location to carry out the face fitting and provide you with full certification for each individual.

Please do give us a call if this is of interest to you, on 03300 886585.



Andrew Goddard Associates Ltd  
CDM Advisers and Health & Safety Consultants

Prepared By:

Andrew Goddard Associates Limited  
Avon House  
82 Wellington Street  
Thame  
Oxfordshire  
OX9 3BN

Tel: 03300 886 585  
Email: [info@aga-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@aga-ltd.co.uk)  
Web: [www.aga-ltd.co.uk](http://www.aga-ltd.co.uk)

