

COLD WEATHER WORKING: HELPING WORKERS STAY SAFE AND WARM

[Keep safe when working in wintry conditions](#)

With low temperatures and less daylight, winter can make surfaces perilous, and [slip and trip accidents](#) increase significantly.

There are plenty of factors to consider when avoiding these sorts of accidents. Ice and snow, poor lighting, excess water from rain and even gritting can all cause problems.

Take a look at our online guide to [avoiding slips and trips in winter weather](#).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

Interventions and Workplace Exposure Limits (WELS) Post EU Exit

Preventing Work Related Stress: The Leading Cause of Illness at Work

PG. 3

AGA Have moved!

Plumbing and Heating Engineer is Jailed for Illegal Gas Work

Know your COSHH Essentials

PG. 4

Building Advisory Committee Inaugural Meeting

The Golden Thread

Update from Dame Judith Hackitt

PG. 5

Face Fit Testing

Free CDM Advice

E-Learning Courses



Working in cold weather

[Our guidance](#) has been refreshed to make it easier to find and understand advice on how to protect workers in low temperatures. The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations require employers to provide a reasonable indoor temperature in the workplace. The guidance explains how you can assess the risks to workers and [put controls in place to protect them](#). There is a [workplace temperature checklist](#) to help you carry out a basic risk assessment.

INTERVENTIONS AND WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS (WELS) POST EU EXIT

Following the UK's exit from the EU, there is no longer an obligation to adopt EU occupational exposure limits.

Tackling occupational ill-health remains a key theme of the strategy for Great Britain's (GB) health and safety system and our current legal framework will continue to ensure that standards of protection for those working with hazardous substances are maintained.



GB will follow a more blended approach to exposure controls as directed by the evidence. This may include sector specific interventions such as awareness-raising, embedding knowledge, education, and guidance.

Where there is evidence to support the introduction of a new or revised WEL, HSE will follow the [GB methodology approach](#).

We have also conducted a review of the [EU exposure limits that had implementation dates falling after the transition period](#).

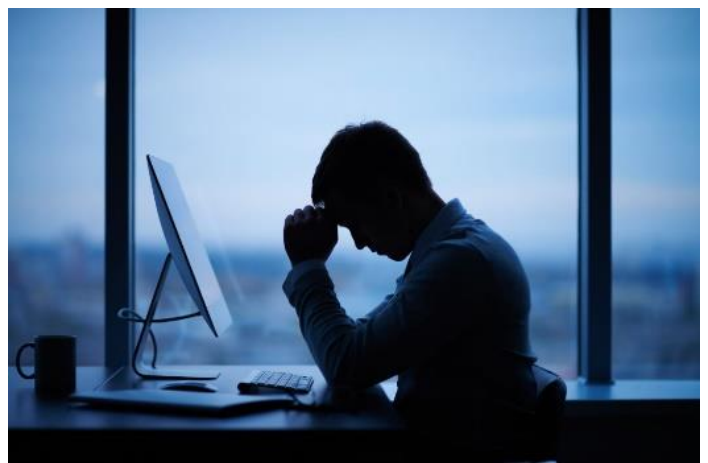
PREVENTING WORK-RELATED STRESS: THE LEADING CAUSE OF ILLNESS AT WORK

Stress, anxiety and depression is the biggest cause of work-related illness in Great Britain and numbers continue to rise.

According to the [latest statistics \(PDF\)](#) there were 914,000 workers suffering from work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2021/22. 17 million working days were lost due to stress in this period.

HSE's [stress website](#) has plenty of advice and includes examples of stress risk assessments tailored to different business sizes, as well as case studies and much more. The [stress talking toolkit](#) shows how line managers can have simple, practical conversations with employees to help prevent stress at work.

Our [Working Minds campaign](#) aims to prevent work-related stress and encourage good mental health.



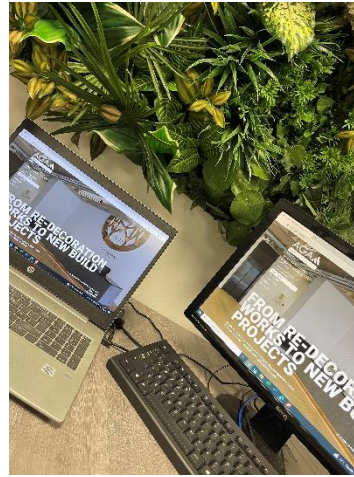
The latest episode of the [HSE Podcast](#) sees HSE Chair Sarah Newton and Professor Cary Cooper discuss the importance of working in partnership to prevent work-related stress and to promote good mental health.

AGA HAVE MOVED!!

We are pleased to announce that we have moved into our new premises after out growing the old offices.

Our new address is:
Samuel House
Chinnor Road
Thame
Oxfordshire
OX9 3NU

All numbers and emails remain the same.



PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEER IS JAILED FOR ILLEGAL GAS WORK



An engineer has been sentenced to 20 weeks in prison as he was not competent to carry out gas work and was not on the Gas Safe Register at the time he carried out this work.

The engineer was contracted to install a new gas central heating boiler but a few days after installation the customer experienced problems with the boiler. On inspection by an engineer on the Gas Safe Register, the installation did not meet current standards.

The engineer had previously been prosecuted by HSE in 2016 where he was found guilty of carrying out unregistered gas work.

[Read this press release](#) for more details on this incident.

KNOW YOUR COSHH ESSENTIALS

A variety of harmful substances are found in our working environments. Knowing how to control these safely is key to safety and protection from harm.

If you work with hazardous substances, our [COSHH website](#) can help you understand the actions you should take to stay healthy.

Our publication [Working with substances hazardous to health: A brief guide to COSHH](#) is available to download. It explains how to control exposure and comply with the Regulations.

HSE's [COSHH Safe Handling Chemicals](#) poster also provides crucial guidance on how to handle chemicals safely in your workplace, including Do's and Don'ts and a useful hazardous signs check.



BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: INAUGURAL MEETING

The first meeting of the Building Advisory Committee (BAC) took place on 19 December.



The BAC was established under the Building Safety Act, 2022. It will advise and inform the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) in its important mission to ensure the safety of residents in high-rise buildings, as well as the Regulator's other roles including keeping the safety and standards of all buildings under review.

The inaugural meeting which was chaired by the Chief Inspector of Buildings, Peter Baker, was an introduction to BSR and the role of the committee before it starts preparing its workplan.

[Read more](#)

STORING YOUR BUILDING'S INFORMATION – THE GOLDEN THREAD



We've published some guidance on information you will need to manage and keep if you are responsible for high-rise buildings.

The 'golden thread' is both the information that allows you to understand a building and the steps needed to keep both the building and people safe, now and in the future.

This guidance is for anyone responsible for a building's information throughout its life-cycle. This includes, building companies, principal designers and principal contractors, and local authorities.

[Read the guidance](#)

UPDATE FROM DAME JUDITH HACKITT

2023 is going to be a big year for Building safety.

It is clear as I continue to meet with various stakeholders that the level of activity is rising in preparation for the new requirements and responsibilities under the Building Safety Act.

Consultation on secondary legislation is moving at pace bringing the clarity required for many who will have new responsibilities. Big progress is being made in recruitment into the BSR and onto its advisory groups.

2023 really is the year to stop seeing building safety as a regulatory compliance issue and join the group of leaders who understand both the moral imperative, and also the market advantage opportunity, of doing the right thing.

Happy and safe new year to you all.



FACE FIT TESTING LEGAL REQUIREMENT



AGA 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 the right RPE for the task is
- 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.

FREE CDM ADVICE

Continued Professional Development for all



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 host a virtual session 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 info@aga-ltd.co.uk


AGA E-LEARNING COURSES

Whether you are looking to improve your own knowledge or provide training to employees, our E-Learning courses will guide you through the regulations, your legal duties, identifying hazards in your workplace and suitable control measures. Each course is followed by a short test to clarify your understanding regarding that topic, upon which after completion, you will be issued a certificate.


Each course costs £15+vat unless otherwise stated. The courses we currently offer training in are:

- Asbestos Awareness *Course cost is £25+vat*
- Abrasive Wheels
- Basic First Aid
- COSHH
- Display Screen Equipment (DSE)
- Falls Prevention – Working at height
- Fire Safety
- Fire Warden *Course cost is £20+vat*
- Health and Safety Level 2 *Course cost is £20+vat*
- Legionella Awareness
- Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV)
- Lone and Remote Workers (Personal Security)
- Manual Handling
- Office Safety
- Risk Assessment
- Slips and Trips
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Overview)




Risk Assessments - What is a Hazard and What is Risk?




A risk assessment involves identifying the hazards present in any working environment or arising out of commercial activities and work activities.



Basic Ladder Awareness - Directive Key Requirements.

Classification	Duty Rating	Maximum Static Vertical Load	Application	Symbol
Class I	130kg	175kg	Industrial	
Class EN131	115kg	150kg	Commercial	
Class III	95kg	125kg	Domestic	

The value of the safe working load is intended to cover the weight of a single person and their equipment and is also referred to as the 'Maximum Static Vertical Load'.



For more information or to book our courses visit www.aga-ltd.co.uk/e-learning-courses.



Andrew Goddard Associates Ltd
CDM Advisers and Health & Safety Consultants

Prepared By:

Andrew Goddard Associates Limited
Samuel House
Chinnor Road
Thame
Oxfordshire
OX9 3NU

Tel: 03300 886 585
Email: info@aga-ltd.co.uk
Web: www.aga-ltd.co.uk

