

Environmental and Waste Management Group

September 2018 Newsletter



LEGISLATION

The Health and Safety (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018

The Government has published draft regulations to adapt occupational safety and health (OSH) law post-Brexit designed to ensure EU-derived OSH protection will continue in domestic law after the UK leaves the economic and political union. The regulations will amend 11 sets of regulations and one directly acting EU regulation. (Read more: www.gov.uk)

The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018

The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018, published at the end of June, have now come into force. The new regime will initially focus on radioactive materials, with waste, water and industrial emissions following. The new law is expected to save the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) around £250,000 annually.

Four degrees of regulation will be available, according to the risk presented to human health and the environment, the need to consult and the appropriateness of imposing bespoke conditions: general binding rules, notification, registration and permit.

One important change to the current regulatory setup is that the law will allow SEPA to prevent or remediate significant environmental harm and recover its costs in doing so. A procedure for emergency authorisation and a new appeals system, available to third parties, are also included. (Read more: parliament.scot / legislation.gov.uk)

REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

HSE release provisional 2017/2018 annual data for work-related fatal injuries

HSE's report provides provisional headline numbers on workplace fatal injuries that were reported to enforcing authorities in 2017/18. It includes both fatal injuries to workers and to members of the public. The 2017/18 figures will be finalised in July 2019 to take account of any necessary adjustments, however they indicate a total of 144 workers were killed at work in Great Britain in 2017/18, continuing the recent plateauing trend with the average annual number of workers killed at work over the five years 2013/14-2017/18 being 141.

The construction industry accounts for the greatest number of fatalities at 38, whilst the waste and recycling industry accounted for 12. The number of fatal injuries in 2017/18 for each of the main industry sectors is broadly in line with the annual average over the last 5 years. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

Implementation of new and revised Workplace Exposure Limits

New WELs for 31 substances have been introduced from 21st August 2018. You can find a list of the substances and the new limits in the updated HSE publication EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Kier fined £600k after 7 tonne block fell on unsupervised agency worker

The incident happened at the Maerdy Bridge in Cardiff on 15 August 2016. Kier had been appointed Principal Contractor on the Network Rail project, which involved building two new bridges using pre-cast concrete units. The court was told that the agency worker had only started a few days before the incident and whilst acting as a 'slinger' his leg was crushed between a falling concrete unit and the concrete block behind it.

Kier Infrastructure and Overseas had pleaded guilty to breaching s 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. A Kier spokesperson told IOSH Magazine: "We acknowledge and accept the sentencing decision of the court and regret that on this occasion our usual high standards of safety were not met. As a business, Kier's number one priority is to operate safely and sustainably and this means we continually assess and review all of our safety procedures and work collaboratively with our supply chain and partners to strive for continual improvement and adopt new approaches to safety." (Read more: www.ioshmagazine.com)

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

IOSH introduces Student Membership category

Available since 3rd September, IOSH has introduced a Student Membership category for students at IOSH-accredited education institutions. This is considered a significant step forward the professional body's aim to help develop and support new and future safety and health professionals; and an important opportunity to invest in developing new talent for occupational safety and health to meet growing demands in businesses and organisations worldwide. (Read more: iosh.co.uk)

Safety Health and Environmental Awareness (Waste & Resource Management) Passport Schemes

The SHEA portfolio of schemes have been developed in conjunction with industry employers to provide a uniform approach to health, safety and environmental awareness training across the utilities sector, in line with HSE guidelines. The scheme is designed for all persons who require access to operational sites, both permanent and temporary, including all levels of operatives, supervisors and management. However, it is a passport scheme and does not indicate any level of technical competence or skilled expertise.

In Scotland, the scheme is delivered in conjunction with the SWITCH (Scottish Waste Industry Training, Competence, Health & Safety) Forum of which Zero Waste Scotland is a member. Additionally, the SHEA modules map across to and support, the widely used SWITCH Competence Framework. (Read more: eusr.co.uk)

Ground-breaking 'spinning' wind turbine wins UK Dyson award

The O-Wind Turbine captures wind from any direction and, unlike traditional turbines can capture wind travelling in any direction and could be effective in cities and transform how consumers generate electricity. The innovative design has won its two student designers a prestigious James Dyson award. (Read more: [The Guardian](#))

World's largest offshore windfarm opens off Cumbrian coast

The world's biggest offshore windfarm has officially opened in the Irish Sea; Walney Extension, off the Cumbrian coast, spans an area the size of 20,000 football pitches and has a capacity of 659 megawatts, enough to power the equivalent of 590,000 homes. The project is a sign of how dramatically wind technology has progressed in the past five years since the previous biggest, the London Array, was finished. The new windfarm uses less than half the number of turbines but is more powerful. (Read more: [The Guardian](#))

Barrett launches safety review following increase in site accidents

Property development company, Barratt Developments, has launched a safety review after accidents on its sites increased. Commenting on the safety review, it said: "Increased activity levels across the industry in terms of site openings and production volumes combined with shortages of skilled workers has contributed to an increased risk of accidents on sites. (Read more: [pbctoday](#))

Free WISH Safety and Health event – Portsmouth 26th September 2018

The Waste Industry Safety and Health forum (WISH) are holding a free of charge Safety and Health Awareness day in Portsmouth on the 26th September. Invitations have been sent to small businesses in the Portsmouth area, but a few places are still available. If you would like further details, or think this day would be of interest to you, then please email event@wishforum.org.uk. Please note that capacity at the venue is limited, so pre-registration is essential to secure your place.

Respiratory Hazards in Construction FREE Webinar.

HSE has highlighted that the Construction Dust Partnership (CDP) is running a FREE webinar, on Wednesday 7th November 2018 / 11.00am - 11.45am, on the dangers of construction dust and what you can do to protect your workers. To Register please click [here](#).