

RIDDOR

Following a recent consultation on changes to the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995, HSE are now in the process of going through the formal pre-legislative procedures with the aim of it becoming law at the 6 April 2012 common commencement date. The change will mean that the reporting period for injuries to workers that are not classed as "major injuries" will increase from over-three, to over-seven-days. The deadline by which the report must be made will also increase to within 15 days of the accident. Employers and other responsible persons must still keep a record of over-three-day injuries. For employers that have to keep an accident book under the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, this record will comply with the RIDDOR requirement.

HSE Interventions.

Earlier this year in the Ministerial statement Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone, it was announced that HSE is proposing to recover costs from interventions at which a material breach is found. A material breach is where, in the opinion of an HSE inspector, there has been a breach of health and safety law that requires HSE's intervention in supporting the business in putting matters right.

A public consultation on the extension of cost recovery in HSE was open for 12 weeks from 22 July until 14 October 2011. HSE has analysed the responses received from this exercise and this analysis along with the final proposals for cost recovery will go to the HSE Board on 7 December. The Board will then make a recommendation to the Minister on how the proposals for extending cost recovery will operate.

HSE is developing guidance to assist duty holders in understating the circumstances when Fee For Intervention will apply and the process that inspectors undertake to decide the appropriate level of enforcement action.

Löfstedt review

The Löfstedt review set up to review health and Safety legislation, was published on the 28 November 2011 together with the Government response.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has welcomed the publication of the Löfstedt review. The Government has accepted his recommendations and the report will go a long way to refocus health and safety in Great Britain on sensible and proportionate decisions when managing genuine workplace risks. The report focuses on simplifying and streamlining the stock of regulations, enforcement on higher risk businesses, clarifying health and safety requirements, and rebalancing the civil litigation system. The report

sets clear deadlines that have been accepted by the Government. HSE will meet the timetable set by the Government for implementing those recommendations for which we are responsible. Another Government regulatory reform initiative, the Red Tape Challenge, will report in the New Year on further possible changes to the stock of health and safety regulations