

HSE Update for POOSH meeting on 28 January 2013

Löfstedt Report – Update

Good progress continues to be made on the delivery of the Löfstedt recommendations in line with the timetable announced by the Government.

In summary, developments since October 2012 include:

- The new Health and Safety Toolbox which builds on the basics laid out in Health and Safety Made Simple and provides the next level of advice to help businesses identify, assess and control common risks in the workplace was launched on the HSE web site on 5 September 2012. Judith Hackitt formally launched the Toolbox on 2 November 2012. From 5 September to 31 December 2012 there were 75,631 separate visitors to Toolbox.
- A website review was completed by 31 December 2012 to make it clearer where regulations impose specific duties and where they define administrative requirements. (www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm).
- On 31 December 2012 HSE published a research report that was commissioned to help decide if the core set of health and safety regulations could be consolidated in such a way that would provide clarity and savings for businesses (www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/consolidation-of-regulations.htm). The reports findings were discussed at a stakeholder meeting on 7 January 2013 and will be considered by the HSE Board in January 2013.
- A consultation on a second package of 14 legislative measures proposed for revocation ran between 3 April and 4 July 2012. Responses have been analysed and presented to the HSE Board. The proposals were included in the DWP/HSE Statement of New Regulation. HSE is on track to revoke these in April 2013. One further Regulation is still under consideration.
- Consultations on plans to simplify and clarify RIDDOR and to exempt some self-employed people from health and safety legislation closed on 28th October 2012. Responses have been analysed and the findings will be considered by the HSE Board in early 2013.
- The outcome of the consultation on ACOPs was considered by the HSE Board in December 2012 and the proposed revisions and consolidations agreed. The three proposed withdrawals are to be considered at future HSE Board meetings.
- A public consultation on the proposals to remove the requirement for HSE to approve first aid training and qualifications and a review of the associated Approved Code of Practice and the content of revised

guidance ended on 3 December having received over 400 responses. Analysis of responses has commenced which will be used to inform final proposals.

- A review of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and associated guidance continues. HSE is currently engaging businesses and stakeholders (particularly micro and small businesses) in a review of current work at height guidance, the aim being to publish revised, much simplified and clearer guidance to help people understand what the law requires & dispel some of the myths about working at height.

Current consultations:

- A consultation was launched on 20 December 2012 seeking views on regulatory proposals for measures supporting three directly applicable EU chemicals Regulations on: Biocidal Products; Export and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (commonly known as the PIC Regulation); and Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures. Consultation ends on 31 January 2013.
- A consultation was launched on 21 December 2012 setting out proposals for a National Local Authority Enforcement Code following the Löfstedt recommendation that HSE be given a stronger role in directing LAs health & safety inspection and enforcement activity. Consultation ends on 1 March 2013.

Professor Löfstedt Independent Assessment:

Professor Löfstedt has started his independent assessment on progress of delivery of health and safety reforms to date. It is intended he will report on his findings to the Minister for Employment at the end of January 2013.

HSE Interventions

HSE has published detailed guidance on the Fee for Intervention (FFI) area of the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/fee-for-intervention/index.htm>) and the first FFI invoices will be issued W/c 21 January 2013.

RIDDOR and Self Employed

Both consultations were completed to schedule and attracted significant publicity and a good response. Analysis of the responses will be considered by the HSE Board on 30th January, and relevant findings will be made publicly available following this meeting.

HSE -IIG Liaison

HSE is working with IIG on three projects:-

Risk communication- the final version of the paper on Risk Communication has now been produced and can be found at

<http://www.theiet.org/factfiles/health/risk-comms-page.cfm?type=pdf> . A copy is also attached to this update.

Lifelong learning for health and safety – A copy of this document is attached to this briefing. It is due to be issued formally to the Professional Engineering Forum (ex Professional Panel) and other stakeholders on 25th January. Business case for health and safety – work is ongoing with this document which I understand is soon to be completed.

National Local Authority Enforcement Code

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has opened a consultation on proposals to ensure LA health and safety inspections are targeted at workplaces with the most serious risks or where there is evidence of poor performance.

The LA National Code aims to ensure greater consistency and a tighter focus in the enforcement of health and safety across Britain.

Anyone with an interest in local authority health and safety regulation and the business they regulate is invited to take part in the consultation.

The consultation will run until 1 March 2013 and can be found on the HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd247.htm>

Myth Busters Challenge Panel

There are now over 100 cases on the website and there was another round of publicity over Christmas, which generated more interest in the panel. HSE Press Office monitors the number of negative stories related to health and safety. Since the Myth Busters Challenge Panel has been up and running there has been a drop of nearly 20% of such stories.

Occupational Disease Event

HSE is organising an event on occupational disease to be held the 14th March in London at the British Library.

The event aims to bring together a range of stakeholders to discuss the development of new and innovative ways of tackling a number of challenging occupational health issues. An independent steering group chaired by HSEs Chief Executive Geoffrey Podger has been established. The group will set the direction of the event by helping to generate new and novel ideas to stimulate participant discussion and consider ways to ensure that a broad spectrum of views are captured. Attendance at the event will be free, but by necessity will be by invitation only.'