



Guernsey Occupational Safety & Health Association – www.gosha.org.gg

March 2013

GOSHA News

Annual Health & Safety Awards – 2012 – Presented 24.1.2013

It was great to announce the winners of our awards categories in our last newsletter and in this edition we are pleased to provide you with a full summary of all awards and commendations – all winners!

Large Organisation:

Winner Guernsey Water

Highly Commended : Trant Construction Ltd, Ronez, OCS (One Complete Solution) and

Commended : Lagan Construction

Construction:

Winner Trant Construction Ltd

Highly Commended: Lagan Construction and Geomarine

Commitment to Improvement of Health & Safety:

Island Waste

Individual:

Winner Darren Bishop

Highly Commended: Mark Ridley

Progress in the Management of Hazardous Substances

Winner Guernsey Water

Next Evening Talks – see our website for more details

- 🕒 25 April 2013 – Sandy Carmichael – UK HSE Inspector- Occupational Health in Construction
- 🕒 4 June 2013 – Duncan Spencer Safety Manager (Strategic) John Lewis Partnership Safety Department

We are fortunate to receive the support of two experts in their fields and we hope you will attend their talks which will take place at 18.30 hrs at La Villette Hotel. Please book in advance by emailing the GOSHA Secretary Jon Coyde (jcoyde@newtelsurf.com)

Education

Our auction at our annual dinner raised £360 (net) and the prize was donated to assist in funding training for small Guernsey businesses in health & safety management. We have received several suggestions for topics which could be offered including asbestos awareness, control of legionella bacteria, safe manual handling, electrical safety in the workplace, preventing slips and trips and how to carry out a risk assessment. Do you have topics you would like GOSHA to cover in 2013? Please let us know.

HSE News

Workplace Vehicles – safety

If you are responsible for workplace vehicles, drivers and vehicle safety, you will find this focused website guidance helpful:

www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/

The site includes dos and don'ts such as:

DO

- 🕒 **Keep people and vehicles apart**
- 🕒 **Anchor loads securely to the vehicle chassis**
- 🕒 **Avoid the need to work at height on vehicles**
- 🕒 **Have clear site rules and enforce them**

DON'T

- 🕒 **Operate vehicles unless you are authorised to do so**

You may remember recent reports in the media in Guernsey highlighting the collapse of a goods carrying vehicle axle. Regular inspection and maintenance is essential to the safety of vehicles and similar additional competent person inspections must be made of lifting equipment installed on a vehicle. It seems obvious but it is apparent that sensible measures are not being taken by some businesses with potentially catastrophic consequences, even on our low speed island.

What is health surveillance?

Health surveillance is a system of ongoing health checks.

It is important for:

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- 🕒 **detecting ill-health effects at an early stage, so employers can introduce better controls to prevent them getting worse**
- 🕒 **providing data to help employers evaluate health risks**
- 🕒 **enabling employees to raise concerns about how work affects their health**
- 🕒 **highlighting lapses in workplace control measures, therefore providing invaluable feedback to the risk assessment**
- 🕒 **providing an opportunity to reinforce training and education of employees (eg on the impact of health effects and the use of protective equipment)**

Health surveillance can sometimes be used to help identify where more needs to be done to control risks and where early signs of work-related ill health are detected, employers should take action to prevent further harm and protect employees.

Consider health surveillance if your employees are at risk from:

- 🕒 **noise or vibration or ionising radiation**
- 🕒 **solvents, dusts, fumes, biological agents and other substances hazardous to health**
- 🕒 **asbestos, lead or work in compressed air**

www.hse.gov.uk/health-surveillance

Lesson Learned - Workers' lives put at risk during fishing boat repairs

A boat repair business has been prosecuted after it sent two employees to carry out work in a fishing boat's diesel tank that could have led to an explosion and put them at risk of being overcome by fumes – read more at www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-sw-candlmarine.htm?eban=rss-press-release

Ridiculous 'elf and safety' excuses exposed by HSE

A panel, which was set to challenge a stream of silly decisions wrongly blamed on health and safety, has now dealt with more than 100 cases. Its aim is to help the public challenge unreasonable bans or restrictions and force those behind the decisions to honestly explain their real reasons.

HSE UK Chair Judith Hackitt, who heads the panel, said: 'It's really important that we are all ready to challenge stupid decisions made in the name of health and safety, and that we, as the regulator, give the public the confidence to do so.'

'Not only do the jobsworths who make these ridiculous edicts waste time and money, and interfere needlessly with harmless activities, they also undermine our efforts to reduce the number of people made ill, injured or killed by their work.'

The most ridiculous health and safety excuses of 2012

- 🕒 **A driver refused to allow a customer on his bus with a hot drink citing health and safety.**
- 🕒 **A bar refused to let a customer carry a tray of drinks because they had not been 'health and safety trained'.**
- 🕒 **A charity shop has said that they cannot sell knitting needles because 'they are too dangerous'.**
- 🕒 **A public hall removed knives from a kitchen on the grounds of health and safety.**

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- ⌚ **A cafe refused to put coffee in a customer's own reusable cup.**
- ⌚ **Airline passengers were told boiled sweets were no longer provided in case children choked on them.**
- ⌚ **Bathroom floor towels were not provided by a hotel chain as people could slip over.**
- ⌚ **Fish and chip shop customers were told they couldn't have 'batter scraps' for health and safety reasons.**
- ⌚ **A school banned yo-yos because children might be injured.**
- ⌚ **Kettles and microwaves were banned from offices because extra insurance coverage was needed.**

How often should I get my electrical installation tested?

Electrical installations should be tested often enough that there is little chance of deterioration leading to danger. Any part of an installation that has become obviously defective between tests should be de-energised until the fault can be fixed.

You should have your electrical installation inspected and tested by a person who has the competence to do so.

Extract from Guernsey law: The Safety of Employees (Electricity) Ordinance - which can be found at

[www.hse.guernsey.gg/PDFs/Guides Information/Guide To Event Safety.pdf](http://www.hse.guernsey.gg/PDFs/Guides%20Information/Guide%20To%20Event%20Safety.pdf)

18. (1) The insulation resistance of all parts of an occupier's installation, of the conductance of the earthing conductors comprised therein and of the earth plate or plates associated therewith shall be tested in the prescribed manner at least once in every period of twelve months or such lesser period as may from time to time be prescribed either generally or in relation to any class or description of premises to which this Ordinance applies.

For further guidance, please contact the Guernsey HSE on tel 234567

Is there any local (Guernsey) advice on controlling legionella?

Whilst there are no prescriptive legal requirements for control of Legionella in Guernsey, the general duties under the Health and Safety at Work (Guernsey) Law, 1979, do apply and requires those in control of buildings with cooling towers and water systems (property owner / facilities manager / building occupiers) to adopt suitable means to control Legionella in their premises.

Therefore, water systems within the work place must not pose a risk to health so far as is reasonably practicable. The Guernsey HSE considers that the UK's Approved Code of Practice "[Legionnaires' disease: the control of Legionella bacteria in water systems](#)" L8 (UK ACoP) is the standard to be met in order to comply with this legislation.

The principal requirements of the UK ACoP are as follows: -

- Survey, identify and assess the sources of risk;

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- Prepare a scheme (or course of action) for preventing or controlling the risk;
- Implement and manage the scheme - appointing a competent person to be managerially responsible,
- To provide training for persons with delegated responsibilities;
- Implement a system for sampling to ascertain biological activity and biocide concentration and keep records of the results;
- Monitor and keep records of water temperature in various parts of the system;

In addition, under the Health and Safety at Work (General) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 1987, Section 9 and Schedule 2 Part I (9), any positive Legionella results must be reported to the HSE regardless of the number of Colonies Forming Units (cfu) found.

If you are planning an event or a workplace risk assessment don't cancel it and don't make the problem of carrying out a risk assessment the reason for cancelling it:

Myth: Risk assessments must always be long and complex

The reality

On its own, paperwork never saved anyone. It is a means to an end, not an end in itself - action is what protects people. So risk assessments should be fit for purpose and acted upon.

OK, if you're running an oil refinery you're going to need a fair amount of paperwork. But for most, bullet points work very well indeed.

Check out www.hse.gov.uk/risk/fivesteps.htm

GOSHA Committee