

HSE SAFETY CORNERSTONES

May 2015

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Provided by
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Remembering Your RIDDOR Responsibilities

As the owner or manager of a business, you are responsible for ensuring that your operations are compliant and run smoothly. One such obligation falls under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). These regulations outline the proper reporting procedures that must be followed in the event of any of the following four incidents:

1. Accidents resulting in the death of any person
2. Accidents resulting in specified injuries to workers
3. Non-fatal accidents requiring hospital treatment to nonworkers
4. Dangerous occurrences, which are defined as infrequent incidents with a high potential to cause death or serious injury

After an incident has occurred, you have 10 days to fill in and submit the appropriate form to the HSE. However, for cases of occupational diseases, you are required to turn in the corresponding form upon notification of the diagnosis. To review the list of available RIDDOR reports, you can visit www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm. However, remember that any incidents that occurred in Northern Ireland should be reported to HSE NI at www.hseni.gov.uk/contact-us/report-an-incident.htm.

For each RIDDOR report associated with an injury, three-day injury, disease or dangerous occurrence, you must keep a record of the incident. Rely on the following record-keeping methods:

- If you choose to submit the report online, a copy of the report will be emailed to the address you provide (Note: You will be offered the option to save and print your own copy of the form in addition to it being emailed to you).
- If you choose not to submit the report online, your record of the incident must include these four pieces of information:
 - Date and method of reporting
 - Date, time and place of the incident
 - Personal details—name, age, occupation—of those involved in the incident
 - A brief description of what occurred during the incident or the nature of the disease
- If your business is required to maintain an accident book (B1510) under Social Security Law, you are permitted to use the book to keep a record of incidents (Note: For incidents involving occupational disease, you will need a separate method of recording).

The HSE does not share any information that you supply in a RIDDOR form to your insurance company. Therefore, if the incident requires your insurer to be notified, contact them quickly in order to remain compliant. For more detailed RIDDOR guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/index.htm.



Final Report on Health and Safety Reforms

On 24th March 2015, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published its final progress report on Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone, the health and safety reforms introduced by the DWP in March 2011. The reforms were comprised of three main initiatives:

- **The Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register:** This provided businesses with a free, easily accessible method of finding approved, properly accredited health and safety consultants.
- **The New Health and Safety Framework:**
 - **Major Hazard Industries:** The government deemed its regulation of major hazardous industries such as the chemical and offshore oil sectors as 'soundly based and in accordance with best international practice' in 2011. It therefore did not increase oversight of these sectors. Instead, the government focused on enforcement action, detailing strong industry relationships and thorough HSE inspections in its Focus on Enforcement Review campaign.
 - **Non-major Hazard Industries:** The HSE's Estates Excellence Programme helped provide free advice and training to SMEs in non-major hazard industries since 2009. The HSE continued to help improve health and safety in non-major hazard industries by instituting its Fee for Intervention scheme and outlining risk-based assessments for local authority regulators to ensure that local regulation is nationally consistent.
- **Making Health and Safety Simpler:** The Web-based programmes, 'Health and Safety Made Simple' (March 2011) and the 'Health and Safety Toolbox' (November 2012) provided businesses with straightforward guidance to better identify, assess and control common workplace risks.

The comprehensive success of the Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone reforms is a reflection of the HSE's dedication to bettering the health and safety of the United Kingdom.



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NEWS AND PROSECUTIONS

Takeaway frowns on customer-supplied bags

A Scottish takeaway will not allow customers to use their own bags to carry their order or permit them to pack their own order, citing health and safety risks. The HSE Mythbusters Panel agreed with the takeaway's assertion that bringing customers' bags into the kitchen could pose a contamination risk, but concluded that there was no reason customers could not pack their own order.

Neglectful skipper jailed after diver's death

The skipper of the boat 'Solstice' was sentenced to nine months in prison after he was found guilty of lax health and safety regulations that led to the death of a diver. The court found that the skipper had failed to properly assess the risks to the diver, supply adequate safety equipment, provide a standby diver in case of an emergency as well as ensure that the others on the boat were capable and knowledgeable.

Loose cows nearly trample woman to death

A Helston farmer was fined £12,000 and ordered to pay £8,885 in costs after a woman sustained life-threatening injuries caused by the farmer's cows. The 40-year-old woman was walking along a foot trail next to an open field when the cows crossed her path, causing her to suffer two punctured lungs, broken ribs, and spinal and face fractures. The severe injuries required that the woman spend five weeks in critical care and nine weeks in hospital. In its report, the HSE found that the farmer had failed to properly assess the risks to those using the path near his cow fields.

Safety oversight leads to a worker being crushed to death

An E&M Engineering Services' engineering boss was fined £12,000 after an employee was crushed to death. The 45-year-old welder and fabricator was unloading steel and aluminium panels when he was struck by a moving excavator and crushed between its bucket and fixed cabinet. In its investigation, the HSE found that while the engineering boss had assessed the associated risks, he had neglected to identify mechanical lifting as a hazard and, as a result, failed to implement appropriate safety procedures.