WILSON ADRAIN NEWS

Wilson Adrain
SAFETY MANAGEMENT LTD

WILSON ADRAIN SAFETY MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2022

NEWS

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USEFUL INNOVATIONS

Multipurpose inflatable wedge makes fixing and levelling easy. Holds windows, doors, appliances, and equipment in place for easier installation. Can be inflated or deflated to ideal pressure to hold the unit in the right position. Core plate technology stops the material buckling or bending.

Hedgehog Easy Air Wedge is a brand commonly used as a manual handling aid it has a secret feature is a piece of stiff plastic inside the bag. This allows you to slide the bag into a very narrow gap and then, by operating the little hand pump, you can increase the gap. They were originally a locksmiths (and thieves) tools for forcing a gap in a door. Now the use for Air Wedges is generally more law abiding; window fitters use them for centering a window and they are also useful for carpenters putting in door liners. The amount of weight they will lift is remarkable and you can lift or shift by tiny fractions, so you get exactly the right adjustment. We are talking precision here which is unusual in the building industry.

These inflatable wedges are an adaptable and reliable part for aligning components during installation, from doorway fittings and windows to cabinetry fronts. They are an excellent alternative to standard wedges, as they allow for quick and easy changes in size due to its design. As these inflatable wedges are made from a material that is both strong and soft, it can support up to 135kg without the risk of scratching or denting new surfaces – allowing for a professional installation.

The bags are available in singles as well as sets of four and the price is very competitive even though they are very well made and tough as old boots. If you have looked at these bags in the past and not been sure if you need them then the lower price may change your mind. Once you have them they make so many jobs quicker and easier that they pay you back almost daily.

WORKING IN ADVERSE WEATHER

It happens each year: snow, ice, wind, rain and fog. But each year it comes as a surprise with road traffic accidents and an increase in slips trips and falls in and around the workplace. With care and forward planning these accidents can be avoided. Being outside in adverse weather brings changed conditions that need extra consideration.

Hazards:

- Clothing and PPE requirements when working outside and on Site.
- Housekeeping and workplace maintenance.
- Poor lighting and obscured landscape.
- Working or walking outside in exposed places in high winds
- Personal Security

Vehicles & Driving

- Check your vehicle before setting off, making sure tyre pressures are correct and that your screen wash is topped up and your lights work. Keep windows clean to avoid glare
- When driving, plan your journey: in adverse weather conditions it will take longer, don't rush - keep a good distance from the vehicle in front.

Working Outside or on Site

- Always wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions.
- Frostbite and hypothermia.
    - Hypothermia is a potentially fatal condition caused by loss of body temperature.
    - For example, exposed skin can start to freeze at just 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2 degrees Celsius) and deep frostbite can cause blood clots and even gangrene.
    - Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, confusion, lightheadedness and profuse sweating. Without medical treatment the victim can lose consciousness and die.
- In bad light, make yourself seen, wear a high-vis vest or jacket and stick to illuminated pedestrian routes. Snow covered areas all look the same and flat areas can conceal ruts and ditches.
- In high winds at exposed locations: consider the risk of being blown over or struck by flying objects and the potential injuries. Take the necessary actions or avoidance to prevent injuries.

Clean up spills, e.g., keep external steam clean and wash down area free of standing water, it may freeze presenting a slipping hazard to others.

Personal Safety

- Walking to and from work, and around customers' premises out of daylight hours - keep to well-lit pedestrian walkways.
- Consider the effects of sudden gusts of wind when working outside in exposed places.
- Let colleagues or friends and family know where you will be and when.

HOW TO CARRY OUT A COSHH ASSESSMENT

A COSHH assessment concentrates on the hazards and risks from hazardous substances in your workplace.

Remember that health hazards are not limited to substances labelled as 'hazardous'. Some harmful substances can be produced by the process you use, eg wood dust from sanding, or silica dust from tile cutting.

The Law

If your business uses or creates substances or carries out processes which might cause harm to health, the law requires you to control the risks to employees.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) apply to most harmful substances but lead and asbestos are covered by separate regulations, as specified later in this section.

If you manufacture or import chemicals you should look at the European REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation No 1907/2006.

REACH - European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

If you manufacture, import or formulate chemicals for supply, you should look at the European Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) Regulation No 1272/2008, and the national Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2009 (CHIP). The CHIP Regulations will be replaced by the CLP Regulation from 1 June 2015.

If you transport chemicals, you should look at the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004 (as amended 2005) (the Carriage Regulations 2004)

Identify the hazards

- Identify which substances are harmful by reading the product labels and safety data sheets (SDS).
- If you are in doubt, contact your supplier.
- Remember to think about harmful substances produced by your processes, such as cutting or grinding, or to which workers may be otherwise exposed

Decide who might be harmed and how

- How might workers be exposed? Think about the route into the body (whether the substance can be breathed in, get onto or through the skin or can even be swallowed) and the effects of exposure by each of these routes
- Think of how often people work with the substance and for how long
- Think about anyone else who could be exposed
- Don't forget maintenance workers, contractors and other visitors or members of the public who could be exposed
- Also think about people who could be exposed accidentally, e.g., while cleaning, or what happens if controls fail

Evaluate The Risks And Decide On Precautions

Once you have carried out a risk assessment and identified which harmful substances are present, and how workers can be harmed, you need to think about preventing exposure.

- Do you really need to use a particular substance, or is a safer alternative available?
- Can you change the process to eliminate its use or avoid producing it? If this is not possible, you must put in place adequate control measures to reduce exposure

The measures you adopt could include the following:.

Changing the process to reduce risks

- Consider whether you can change the process you use to reduce the risk of exposure. For example, you could reduce the temperature of a process to reduce the amount of vapour getting into the air or use pellets instead of powders as they are less dusty

Containment

- Enclose the process or activity as much as possible to minimise the escape or release of the harmful substance

- Use closed transfer and handling systems and minimise handling of materials
- Extract emissions of the substance near the source

Systems of work

- Restrict access to those people who need to be there
- Plan the storage of materials, and use appropriate containers. Check that storage containers are correctly labelled and that incompatible materials, for example acids and caustics, are separated
- Plan the storage and disposal of waste

Cleaning

- Exposure to hazardous substances can occur during cleaning, so plan and organise the workplace so that it can be easily and effectively cleaned
- Smooth work surfaces will allow easy cleaning
- Have the right equipment and procedures to clear up spillages quickly and safely
- Clean regularly using a 'dust-free' method – vacuum, don't sweep

If you have five or more employees, you must record your assessment but, even if you have fewer than five, it makes sense to write down what steps you have taken to identify the risks. And the important part is making a list of the actions you have taken to control the risks to workers' health.

The risk assessment should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it is kept up to date to consider any changes in your workplace.

RECENT HSE PRESS RELEASES

Case 1 – 07/11/2022

A company that tests ventilation systems has been fined for putting hundreds of workers at risk of serious lung diseases.

Airtec Filtration Ltd was used by businesses across the UK to test extract ventilation systems, which reduce exposures to airborne contaminants in a workplace.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the firm, which is based in St Helens, Merseyside provided its customers with inaccurate test results, potentially leaving staff in those businesses unaware of the risks they faced.

In one incident, when assessing a car manufacturing business, the Airtec engineer failed to identify

the presence of rubber fumes, which are carcinogenic and can lead to cancer.

In another, a baking company used flour and other respiratory allergens, which the engineer identified inadequately as food dusts. The Airtec engineer failed to provide any other information to highlight the presence of asthmagens, which can lead to occupational asthma.

Between 2018 and 2019 Airtec Filtration Ltd were providing Through Examination and Tests (TExT) of local exhaust ventilation (LEV) systems, which are designed to control substances dangerous to health.The company claimed their work met the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002.

However, the testing the testing reports provided to businesses were insufficient as hazardous substances were not adequately identified, and the local exhaust ventilation tests were not carried out correctly. HSE inspectors visited multiple sites, where testing was undertaken by Airtec and at each one a number of significant and common failings were found.

As a result, Airtec was served with an Improvement Notice on 23 October 2019.

The Improvement Notice required Airtec to provide training to their engineers to ensure that they had adequate knowledge, training and expertise in the assessment, evaluation and control of risk arising from exposure to hazardous substances, so as to not expose persons who might be affected, to a potential health risk.

An investigation by HSE found that Airtec was aware of the need for a competent person who held professional qualifications to carry out the testing but did not provide the necessary training for their engineers.

Airtec Filtration Ltd, of Manor Street, St Helens pleaded guilty to contravening Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £2,666 and ordered to pay costs of £4,074 at Manchester Magistrates' Court on 4 November 2022.

The issue came to light when HSE inspectors requested TExT reports relating to LEV systems from a number of businesses as part of routine inspections and investigations. LEV is an engineering control system installed to reduce exposures to airborne contaminants such as dust, mist, fume, vapour, or gas in a workplace.

The documents received by inspectors raised concerns about the accuracy of Airtec Filtration Ltd's services who had tested the LEV systems for a number of businesses. HSE inspector Rose Leese-Weller said: "Airtec Filtration Ltd provided inadequate training to their engineers while claiming to provide a thorough testing service for LEV systems.

"They provided businesses with unsatisfactory reports based on limited or inconclusive evidence, with little or no consideration of the level of risk of different hazardous substances.

"Inhalation of hazardous substances at work can have devastating consequences to workers leading to occupational asthma, cancer, chemical asphyxiation or neuro-toxic effects. "This company completely flouted regulations potentially putting hundreds of workers at serious risk. HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards, we hope this sentencing sends out a stark warning to the industry."

People who believe they may have been exposed to a hazardous airborne substance in the workplace will understandably be anxious and concerned about the possible effects on their health.

Anyone who is concerned about possible exposure to hazardous substances from work activities is advised to consult their GP and ask for a note to be made in their personal record about possible exposure, including date(s), duration, type of substance and likely exposure levels (if known).

In some circumstances, the GP may refer them to a specialist in respiratory medicine.

Case 2 – 09/11/2022

A transport company has been fined £400,000 after one of its drivers was killed after being knocked off his trailer while loading and unloading it.

On 16 November 2020, Robert Gifkins, who worked for Arnold Laver & Company Ltd, was delivering timber to a company in Whaddon near Salisbury. He had climbed onto the bed of his trailer to sling the load and attach it to the vehicle-mounted crane. While moving the load using the crane's remote control he was struck by the crane and fell from the vehicle to the ground. Mr Gifkins was taken to hospital and subsequently died on 17 December 2020.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that this incident was the result of health and safety failings by the company. The risks associated this work at height had not been properly assessed and the risk of falls had not been adequately prevented or controlled. The company had also not provided Mr Gifkins with sufficient training and instruction on the safe operation of the remote crane controls on the vehicle.

At a sentencing hearing at Salisbury Magistrates' Court on 13 October, Arnold Laver & Company Ltd, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. Passing sentence today (November 9) they were fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £19,841.99.

Speaking after the hearing HSE Inspector Leo Diez said: "Falls from vehicles can be overlooked by employers when considering risks from work at height. Simple control measures would have prevented this accident."

In a victim personal statement from Mr Gifkins' family, his mother Betty Gifkins, said: "The pain of losing a son is only made worse by the fact this is the second son I have lost. I try not to think of him in the hospital as this only adds to my sadness. I miss him every day."

CURRENT TRAINING COURSES

HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES – IN PERSON

Course Title	Duration	Candidates	
		MIN.	MAX.
Abrasive Wheels Awareness	½ Day		12
UKATA Accredited Asbestos Awareness	½ Day		12
UKATA Accredited Asbestos Awareness Refresher	½ Day		12
Non UKATA Asbestos Awareness	½ Day		12
Avoiding Accidents and ill Health at Work	½ Day		12
CDM Regulations 2015	1 Day		12
COSHH Assessments	½ Day		12
Delivering Toolbox Talks/ Instructional Techniques	½ Day		12
Environmental Awareness	½ Day		12
Fire Marshall/ Warden Training	½ Day		12
Fire Extinguisher Awareness	½ Day		12
Hand Arm Vibration Syndromes Awareness	½ Day		12
Health and Safety in the Office Environment	½ Day		12
Manual Handling	½ Day		12
Risk Assessment	½ Day		12
PUWER Machinery Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Sharps and Bio-Hazards Safety	½ Day		12
Working at Height Awareness	½ Day		12
Working at Height & Ladder Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Working at Height with Harness Awareness	½ Day		12
Working at Height with Harness and Man Safe System Awareness	½ Day		12
Working at Height for Groundworkers	½ Day		12
Electrical Safety Awareness	½ Day		12
Electrical Safety Awareness for Demolition/ Downtakings	½ Day		12
Safe Digging Practices in Accordance with HSG47	½ Day		12
CAT & Genny Awareness	½ Day		12
Spill Kit Awareness	½ Day		12
Face Fit Testing	Varies		

IOSH COURSE

Course Title	Duration	Candidates	
		MIN.	MAX.
Managing Safely	3 Day	4	12
Managing Safely Refresher	1 Day	4	12
Working Safely	1 Day	4	12

ONLINE HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES

Course Title
Abrasive Wheels
Asbestos Awareness
Basic Fire Safety Awareness
Basic Legionella Management
Behavioural Safety
CDM Awareness
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)
Display Screen Equipment Awareness
Drug and Alcohol Awareness
Electrical Safety
Emergency First Aid at Work - Online Annual Refresher
Fire Extinguisher
Fire Marshal
Introduction to Risk Assessment
Manual Handling
Noise Awareness
Personal Protective Equipment
Slips, Trips and Falls
Working at Height
Working in Confined Spaces
Working Safely
Workplace Health and Safety

If you have any questions or queries, please contact us using the following;
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