



Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions (DEEE)

Exhaust fumes from diesel engines do cause cancer, a panel of experts working for the World Health Organisation (WHO) said at a meeting this summer. It concluded that the exhausts were definitely a cause of lung cancer and may also cause

tumours in the bladder. It based the findings on research in high-risk workers such as miners, railway workers and truck drivers.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a part of the WHO, had previously labelled diesel exhausts as probably carcinogenic to humans. It is thought people working in at-risk industries have about a 40% increased risk of developing lung cancer.

The report merits serious attention and action by UK manufacturers, employers and regulators. Recently, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) produced a document that ranked diesel exhaust fumes as the 6th most important workplace carcinogen. It estimated 652 lung cancer and bladder deaths each year from work exposure to diesel exhaust fumes, with over 100,000 people exposed to diesel exhaust fumes at work. It is to be hoped that the HSE will now act quickly and produce new information leaflets on diesel exhaust fumes and increase its activities on prevention of exposure.

However, it is known that lung cancer is caused by multiple factors and that other things such as smoking are far more deadly. The people most at risk are those whose jobs expose them to high levels of diesel exhaust fumes, such as truck drivers, mechanics, or miners. For the man on the street, nothing has changed, it's a known risk but a low one for the average person, so people should go about their business as normal.



Research has indicated that the particulate component of the diesel exhaust fume has the potential to cause most harm. The particulate fraction of diesel exhaust fume consists mainly of very small particles which can reach the deep parts of the lungs. The gaseous phase of diesel exhaust consists largely of the same gases found in air, such as nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide and water vapour, and is thus less hazardous.

At present in the UK there are no Workplace Exposure Limits for diesel exhaust emissions (DEEEs). However, under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH), DEEEs are classed as a substance hazardous to health and as such it is recommended that employers prevent or reduce workers exposure as much as is reasonably practicable; in particular where workers operate within confined spaces.

When undertaking a risk assessment on the exposure to DEEEs, simple observations in the workplace may provide a clue to the extent of the exposure at various times. The full assessment is complex and should be carried out by a trained occupational hygienist.



Fire Safety

The Forum hosted a fire safety seminar in May which was well attended by over 80 local employers.



Jonathan Harrison, West Yorkshire Fire Brigade Inspector gave the first presentation on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order Act 2005 (RRO). This was followed by;

- Yorkshire Electrical Ltd Services
Emergency Lighting
- Checkmate Fire Solutions
Fire Doors
- Marsden Extinguishers
Fire Extinguishers & Evacuation Aids
- Rosse Systems Ltd
Detection Systems & Fire Risk Assessments

The RRO applies to all non-domestic premises in England and Wales, including the common parts of blocks of flats and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The law applies to you if you are:

- ◇ Responsible for business premises
- ◇ An employer or self employed with business premises
- ◇ Responsible for part of a dwelling where that part is solely used for business
- ◇ A charity or voluntary organisation
- ◇ A contractor with a degree of control of any premise
- ◇ Providing accommodation for any paying guests

Various discussions took place during the question and answer session at the end of the event. Further information on speakers and presentations can be found on the Forum website.



Making health and safety clearer and easier for business.....



The HSE have launched a new resource for small business. "The Health and Safety Toolbox: How to control risks at work" is now available free on the HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/index.htm>

Aimed at small to medium size businesses with a range of risks to control in their workplace, the Toolbox builds on Health and Safety Made Simple and provides a next level of advice for those who need specific information to identify, assess and control the risks in their workplace. It offers practical advice, tools and case studies.

The Toolbox has been developed with employer and employee organisations, including Small Business Trade Association Forum (SBTAF) members, to ensure it offers quick and easy access to the information and resources that businesses really need.

Changes to Control of Asbestos Regulations

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 have now been replaced by the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Most of the regulations are unchanged, but there are some changes in relation to unlicensed work with asbestos. Previously, work with asbestos containing materials which did not need to be licensed did not need to be notified and workers did not have to be subject to medical surveillance.

This is no longer the case unless:

- ◆ The material being handled is in good condition, non-friable, and not likely to be damaged. (i.e. asbestos dust is not likely to be released) AND
- ◆ The exposure of employees to asbestos is sporadic and of low intensity AND
- ◆ It is clear from the risk assessment that the exposure to asbestos of any employee will not exceed the control limit

In any other case, if you are responsible for unlicensed work with asbestos, you must notify the work online at:

- ◆ <https://extranet.hse.gov.uk/lfsrver/external/asbnnlw1> AND
- ◆ Ensure that all employees likely to be exposed to asbestos have received a medical examination before 30 April 2015 and, thereafter, at least every three years AND
- ◆ Ensure that these medical records are kept for at least 40 years after the date of the last entry

From 6 April 2012, brief written records should be kept of non-licensed work, which has to be notified e.g. copy of the notification with a list of workers on the job, plus the level of likely exposure of those workers to asbestos. This does not require air monitoring on every job, if an estimate of degree of exposure can be made based on experience of similar past tasks or published guidance. Find out more at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/regulations.htm>
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/notifiablenon-licensed-work.htm>

Changes to RIDDOR

The requirements for reporting accidents under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) have changed with effect from 6 April 2012.

Fatalities and major accidents must still be reported, but for less serious injuries the qualifying period has been extended. You must now notify any accident that prevents a person carrying out their normal work for more than seven days, not counting the day of the accident (previously three days). **However**, you must still keep records of any over-three-day accidents and produce these if required.

A guidance leaflet INDG 453 which explains the requirements of RIDDOR, including the new changes, can be downloaded from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf>

If you need to report an incident, you should go to www.hse.gov.uk/riddor and complete the online report form.

A telephone reporting service is still available through the Incident Contact Centre on 0845 300 9923, but this should be used for fatal and major injuries only.



Would you like to save money on your portable electrical appliance testing?



The HSE have revised their guidance and did you know as a consequence, you could make a substantial saving on your appliance testing.

In a low-risk environment this is often unnecessary and is not required by law. The law simply states that all employers must ensure that electrical equipment is "maintained so as to prevent danger". This can often be done by regularly carrying out simple visual checks like looking for frayed cables or loose plugs and dealing with the problem.

In some cases where visual checks lead to suspicion, more detailed testing may be necessary to identify the exact nature of the problem but there is no need to have all equipment tested on a routine basis.

For HSE's revised guidance "Maintaining Portable Electric Equipment in Low-Risk Environments" go to www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg236.pdf



Trade in your old or dodgy ladders and get a brand new shiny safe ladder in return!!!

<http://www.ladderexchange.org.uk/>

1 September - 30 November 2012

With immediate effect, the Ladder Association has assumed responsibility for delivering the annual Ladder Exchange. Since its launch, the initiative has been responsible for removing over 10,000 broken, bent or damaged ladders from the workplace with the message '**Don't let a dodgy ladder shatter your life**'. Now in its sixth consecutive year, the Ladder Exchange, which begins on 1 September and runs until 30 November 2012, provides all businesses with the opportunity to exchange broken, bent or damaged ladders for safe, new ones at a discounted price.

Actively supported by the Ladder Association and its members who, throughout, have made a firm commitment to work in partnership with HSE and the access industry, the Exchange has also contributed to raising awareness and understanding of how to use ladders and stepladders safely. Under the scheme, suspect ladders can be exchanged, at a discount, at participating partners.

The Ladder Exchange is a great example of how everyone in the health and safety system can share responsibility and work together towards a common goal; namely, reducing falls from height.

To look for your nearest Ladder Exchange Trade in Partner click: <http://www.ladderexchange.org.uk/findapartner.htm#NE>

Within the Bradford District Traders such as HC Slingsby PLC (Shipley) and HSS Hire (Bradford) are taking part.

European Campaign on Working together for risk Prevention: <http://www.healthy-workplaces.eu/en/>

The Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012–13 '**Working together for risk prevention**' encourages managers, workers and other stakeholders to join forces to improve safety and health.

The Campaign is co-ordinated by the **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work** (EU-OSHA), and our partners in the **EU's 27 Member States** and beyond.

For details of how the Forum are supporting this important campaign, turn overleaf to page 4



How to contact the Forum: contact@baohsf.org.uk www.baohsf.org.uk



Your are invited to a free seminar.....

25th October 2012, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (registration and refreshments from 9.30 am)

Banqueting Suite, City Hall, Bradford

A free event for European Health and Safety week, organised by Bradford Area Occupational Health and Safety Forum and Enterprise Europe Network in Yorkshire

The theme will be "Worker Participation – Leadership". Come along and:

- ♦ hear about how collaboration between management and workers helped deliver successfully the London 2012 Olympic construction project - *Louise Brearey (Head of London 2012 - HSE)*
- ♦ find out more about management best practice from a locally-based company Wincanton, a subcontractor to M&S
- ♦ participate in an interactive feedback session

How to book.....



Click on: <http://www.ee-yorkshire.com/yf/events/register.asp?eventid=717>

If you wish to attend, you can register simply by completing the event booking form (link above) or by contacting Enterprise Europe Network Yorkshire on 0800 052 8156. Please note that places are limited.



Healthy Workplaces
Working together for risk prevention