

## **Latest HSE Updates January 2022**

### **1. HSE Metal Fabrication Inspections**

The current programme of inspection visits that started in May 2021 is ongoing.

As of 18<sup>th</sup> January, HSE inspectors had carried out inspections in 1350 premises, looking at control of welding fume and exposure to metal working fluids.

Visits are generating significant levels of enforcement, particularly in relation to the poor management of, and control of exposure to, water-mix metal working fluids.

62% of visits resulted in notices or other enforcement.

The programme of visits will be extended until the end of the HSE work-year in March 2022.

Information on controlling exposure to these substances is available at:

[About metalworking fluids - Metalworking fluids - HSE](#)

[Welding - HSE](#)

### **2. COVID**

The HSE website contains valuable information on how to control the spread of COVID 19 in workplaces. There is particular importance attached to good ventilation and the HSE website dealing with ventilation has been updated, with links to guidance from external organisations like CIBSE on how to provide effective ventilation

[Ventilation during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic - HSE](#)

The section on ventilation also gives advice about using carbon dioxide monitors as a means of assessing whether there is sufficient ventilation in a particular work area.

British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) have developed a simple tool for assessing ventilation in different areas

[Ventilation Tool – Breathe Freely](#)

On a related topic, given the injunction to work from home, there is guidance on managing home workers' health and safety

[Managing home workers' health and safety - Overview - HSE](#)

### **3. REACH**

If REACH is important to your business, then I recommend that you sign up to e-bulletins to keep you up to date with the changes in this area.

[UK REACH: eBulletin signup \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://hse.gov.uk/ebulletin/signup)

#### **4. Safety Notice**

New safety notice regarding wheeled loading shovel use. Issued following a series of fatal accidents involving these machines on waste sites. However this may have application for a number of other industries involving the bulk handling of powders and loose materials.

[Wheeled loading shovels in waste and recycling - HSE](#)

#### **5. Supply and Manufacture of Work Equipment**

New information about UK CA marking

[Manufacture and supply of new work equipment - Work equipment and machinery \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **6. Stress and Mental Health at Work**

Stress affects people differently – what stresses one person may not affect another. Factors like skills and experience, age or disability may all affect whether an employee can cope.

There are [six main areas of work design](#) which can affect stress levels. You should manage these properly. They are:

- demands
- control
- support
- relationships
- role
- change

Employers should assess the risks in these areas to manage stress in the workplace.

Signs of stress

Stress is not an illness, but it can make you ill. Recognising the [signs of stress](#) will help employers to take steps to stop, lower and manage stress in their workplace.

How to help

The earlier a problem is tackled the less impact it will have. If you think that an employee is having problems, encourage them to talk to someone, whether it's their line manager, trade union representative, GP or their occupational health team.

Help for line managers to have simple, practical conversations with employees which can help prevent stress is available in our [Talking Toolkits \(PDF\)](#) .

To protect employees from stress at work, employers should assess risks to their health. These [example stress risk assessments](#) may help.

You may need to develop individual action plans for employees suffering from stress. HSE's [Management Standards](#) may also help you to identify and manage the six causes of stress at work.

## [Stress at work - HSE](#)

On a similar vein the HSE has launched the Working Minds Campaign

[workright.campaign.gov.uk/campaigns/workingminds](http://workright.campaign.gov.uk/campaigns/workingminds).

## **7. HSE App**

The HSE App is now available to download. It is designed for small and medium sized companies and those new to health and safety and is designed to give them the basics about their health and safety duties and point them towards sources of information and guidance.

[HSE mobile app](#)

## **8. Recent Prosecutions**

- a. Galvanising company fined after worker fatally injured when tubular steel brace exploded in workshop due to absence of vent holes in brace to vent gases during galvanising. Company fined £266,000

[Galvanizing company prosecuted after employee fatally injured | HSE Media Centre](#)

- b. Hot works on plant and equipment needs to be properly planned, the area and the site of the welding made safe, including vessels, tanks and pipework and a rigorous permit to work system enforced. Company fined £1,000,000 after explosion during welding of a tank

[Chemical company fined £1million for fatal explosion | HSE Media Centre](#)

- c. Worker diagnosed with occupational asthma from exposure to metal working fluids. Six months after HSE inspection company had not implemented required actions. Fined £15,000

[Doncaster engineering company fined after worker diagnosed with occupational asthma | HSE Media Centre](#)

- d. Worker soaked in water based degreaser as he attempted to deal with a major spillage at work. Company did not have systems in place to deal with spillages and the worker was not wearing correct PPE. Suffered chemical burns to arms and leg. Company fined £100,000

[Rotherham company fined after worker suffered chemical burns | HSE Media Centre](#)