

Latest HSE Updates October 2021

1. HSE Metal Fabrication Inspections

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

As of 15th October, HSE inspectors had carried out inspections in 1000 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.

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 and air conditioning during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

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 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)

The following extract is from the latest bulletin dealing with Downstream User Input Notifications (DUINs)

REMINDER: Downstream User Import Notifications (DUINs) are required by 27 October 2021

The DUIN process enables existing supply chains to continue and allows businesses time to determine how best to comply with the registration obligations under UK REACH.

However, to keep the chemical substances in their supply chains on the UK market, businesses need to make sure that the relevant substances are eventually registered for UK REACH purposes.

You will be able to make use of this notification provision if you:

- Have acquired importer obligations under UK REACH as a previous downstream user or distributor of a substance covered by an EU-based registration, or
- you were previously covered by an Only Representative in the EU/EEA you are able to make use of this notification provision to ensure continuity of supply.

Downstream users can notify the HSE of their intention to continue importing substances from the EU or EEA **by 27 October 2021** using a [Downstream User Import Notification \(DUIN\)](#).

4. 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](#)

5. Recent Prosecutions

- a) Worker badly injured when 7.7 tonne steel structure moved uncontrollably during fabrication. There was a lack of planning and safe systems of work during lifting and positioning the fabrication using forklifts. Company fined £25,000

[Engineering company fined after employee suffered serious injuries | HSE Media Centre](#)

- b) A reminder that the CDM regulations apply to the installation of new plant and machinery in a factory and that commissioning of new equipment needs to be properly planned and responsibilities clearly agreed with contractors before the work starts. Company fined £300,000 after workers exposed to dangerous concentrations of sulphur dioxide during commissioning a new production line

[Food manufacturer fined after workers are exposed to sulphur dioxide | HSE Media Centre](#)

- c) 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](#)

- d) 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](#)

- e) 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](#)