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|  | April 2020 |

Items of Interest By Barry Clinch.

SELECTED HSE NEWS DURING MARCH 2019 INCLUDING NEW PUBLICATIONS, PRESS

RELEASE AND ITEMS FROM HSE AND OTHER WEB SITES.

To access links to EU OSHA articles you may need to cut and paste the link into your browser.

**12/03/2020**

**EU OSHA.**

**Work-related MSDs: new synthesis report complements EU findings with national data.**

This latest [synthesis report](https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/work-related-musculoskeletal-disorders-facts-and-figures-synthesis-report-10-eu-member/view) is part of a larger EU-OSHA project to analyse national and European data on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The report explores the prevalence and reach of MSDs, the associated risk factors, their impact on health and their prevention in the workplace.

This publication complements EU-level findings with national data and analyses from 10 countries (Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and Sweden). By sharing national data at EU level, EU-OSHA contributes to improving knowledge on MSDs among policy-makers, OSH professionals and national authorities in general.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/highlights/work-related-msds-new-synthesis-report-complements-eu-findings-national-data>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice.**

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=refferal&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=hse-page&utm_content=news-page>

[**HSE issues exemption for the manufacture and supply of biocidal hand sanitiser products in the UK**](https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/27/hse-issues-exemption-for-the-manufacture-and-supply-of-biocidal-hand-sanitiser-products-in-the-uk/)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has taken steps to support hand sanitiser manufacturers as UK production is increasing to tackle Coronavirus.

Due to unprecedented demand for biocidal hand sanitiser products during the coronavirus outbreak, HSE is providing derogations that will assist the UK manufacture and supply of biocidal hand-sanitiser products that use propanol as their active ingredients.

During the temporary exemption, biocidal hand sanitiser products containing Propan-2-ol will not be required to obtain a product authorisation if they meet the relevant WHO-specified formulation II.

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/27/hse-issues-exemption-for-the-manufacture-and-supply-of-biocidal-hand-sanitiser-products-in-the-uk/>

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|  | |  | | --- | | HSG53[HSG53 Respiratory Protective Equipment at Work: A Practical Guide (fourth edition)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAxIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiI3NzkwOTg3NDEiLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrL0hlYWx0aC1hbmQtU2FmZXR5LUd1aWRhbmNlLUhTRy8_Q0xJQ0tJRD0wMDU3MzAmREk9NjQ4MDU1JnV0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9uYW1lPSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5JnV0bV90ZXJtPSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMTIuMTg2MDAxOTEifQ._j6ttWS_lmKrYAOQs5yn688YCCcHCp1G3AyYtxUWtOM" \o "HSG51 Storage of Flammable Liquids in Containers" \t "_blank) £18.00  This fourth edition provides essential guidance on why respiratory protective equipment (RPE) should be used, what the law says and how to select RPE that is adequate and suitable. It also includes a useful dos and don'ts list for the management and supervision of RPE use. | |

[HSG262 Managing Skin Exposure Risks at Work](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAyIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiI3NzkwOTg3NDUiLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrL0hlYWx0aC1hbmQtU2FmZXR5LUd1aWRhbmNlLUhTRy8_Q0xJQ0tJRD0wMDU3MzAmREk9NjQ4MTA2JnV0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9uYW1lPSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5JnV0bV90ZXJtPSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMTIuMTg2MDAxOTEifQ.USPnuvZcpECE3IJGmebikAdXuxB-6_M2O9wQFpQgLWQ) £15.00

Many materials used at work can affect the skin or can pass through the skin and cause diseases elsewhere in the body. If you are an employer, health and safety adviser, trainer or safety representative, this book provides guidance to help you prevent these disabling diseases.

It covers the protective role of the skin, ill health arising from skin exposure, recognising potential skin exposure in your workplace, and managing skin exposure to prevent disease.

[HSG258 Controlling Airborne Contaminants at Work](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAzIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiI3NzkwOTg3NDkiLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrL0hlYWx0aC1hbmQtU2FmZXR5LUd1aWRhbmNlLUhTRy8_Q0xJQ0tJRD0wMDU3MzAmREk9NjQ4MDMzJnV0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9uYW1lPSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5JnV0bV90ZXJtPSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMTIuMTg2MDAxOTEifQ.Wp5sNwFQ3gqLhejbww-y2cpTZsciV0b89iiHFEJPH4o) £20.00

This guidance is for employers who use, or intend to use Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) for example, for dust extraction, powder extraction or welding fume extraction. It will also help suppliers of new LEV equipment. It describes the principles of deciding on, designing, commissioning and testing effective LEV.

[The Protective Mask Poster Pack](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTA1Iiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiI3NzkwOTg3NTciLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrL2Jvb2tzdG9yZS5hc3A_REk9NjQ5MzEzJnV0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9uYW1lPSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5JnV0bV90ZXJtPSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMTIuMTg2MDAxOTEifQ.X9OdCvtuzUplhAW8GpNvx5Gr_bPAApj33qbUwibTKMU) £20.00

20% off the price of the separate titles, this new pack delivers great value on these popular posters. Posters are an excellent way to communicate to workers easily, effectively and pictorially.

* Using Filtering Facepieces (A2 Poster)
* Is Your Mask Protecting You? INDG460 (A2 Poster)

* [NEW! Environmental Hygiene - Guidance Notes EH40/2005](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTA2Iiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiI3Mzc3NTA3NDUiLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrL0NPU0hILz9EST02NTIzOTUmdXRtX2NvbnRlbnQ9JnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX25hbWU9JnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkmdXRtX3Rlcm09IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIwMDMxMi4xODYwMDE5MSJ9.DmDVL9ztgqkC6nLpoKKR0DsSeFeKnHX5BVmhhohYCRg" \o "Environmental Hygiene - Guidance Notes EH40/2005" \t "_blank) £18.00
* This latest version of EH40 has been updated to include new and revised workplace exposure limits (WELs). It will guide those responsible for controlling exposure to hazardous substances at work.
* Many people are exposed to a variety of substances at work (e.g. chemicals, fumes, dusts, fibres) which can, under some circumstances, have a harmful effect on their health. These are called 'hazardous substances'.

All HSE publications and tools are available at: [books.hse.gov.uk](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6ImNsaW5jaEBjbGluY2gua2Fyb28uY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTA3Iiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjEzMzkwMzA0NyIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiIyNzk2NjQ0MzciLCJ1cmkiOiJicDI6ZGlnZXN0IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly9ib29rcy5oc2UuZ292LnVrLz91dG1fY29udGVudD0mdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fbmFtZT0mdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fdGVybT0iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjAwMzEyLjE4NjAwMTkxIn0.HaV1blAbhut_kEiUaTvAgYj--KAA84xB1JTv00QRyCw)

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**Fit testing face masks to avoid transmission: coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Respiratory protective equipment**

Tight-fitting respirators (such as disposable FFP3 masks and reusable half masks) rely on having a good seal with the wearer’s face. A face fit test should be carried out to ensure the respiratory protective equipment (RPE) can protect the wearer.

**Minimise the risk of transmission**

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 or are isolating with should not attend a face fit test.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/face-mask-ppe-rpe-coronavirus.htm?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=refferal&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=rpe&utm_content=news-page>

**Extension for diver’s certificate of medical fitness: coronavirus (COVID-19)**

If you have a 12 months certificate of medical fitness to dive that expires on or after 16 March 2020, and you cannot get a medical re-examination with an approved medical examiner of divers (AMED) because of coronavirus, your certificate may be accepted until 1 June 2020.

To qualify for the extension, you must be able to explain why you haven’t been able to take a medical examination and demonstrate what steps you’ve taken to try to get one. You’ll need to confirm that you’ve not been diagnosed with or suffered any illness or injury that could impact on your medical fitness to dive.

Any diver who does not hold a current certificate of medical fitness to dive issued by an AMED on or before 16 March 2020 must undertake a full examination.

**First aid certificates**

Anyone with Offshore Medic (OM), Offshore First Aid (OFA), First Aid at Work (FAW) or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) certificates who cannot access requalification training because of coronavirus should see a separate guidance on renewing first aid qualifications during coronavirus.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/divers-medical-certificate-extension-coronavirus.htm?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=refferal&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=diving&utm_content=news-page>

**Lone working: Protect those working alone.**

**Overview**

As an employer, you must manage any health and safety risks before people can work alone. This applies to anyone contracted to work for you, including self-employed people.

Lone workers are those who work by themselves without close or direct supervision, for example:

* as delivery drivers, health workers or engineers
* as security staff or cleaners
* in warehouses or petrol stations
* at home

There will always be greater risks for lone workers without direct supervision or anyone to help them if things go wrong.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/lone-working/employer/index.htm>

**Selected HSE court cases**

WORK AT HEIGHT.

[Poor management control puts workers at risk](https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/18/poor-management-control-puts-workers-at-risk/)

Health and Safety Executive inspectors visited a warehouse in Blackburn and **observed two workers on the roof without any physical protection or any work equipment in place to prevent or minimise the distance of a fall.**

**The company did not have any measures in place to prevent workers falling from or through the roof from which they could suffer personal injury or even death. The removal of tiles should have been carried out from underneath the roof using a scissor lift or a cherry picker. Scaffold should have been in place to create a barrier against and to minimise the distance of a possible fall**.

Speed Drop Logistics Ltd of Manner Sutton Street, Blackburn, pleaded **guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £80,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1570.60.**

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/18/poor-management-control-puts-workers-at-risk/>

WORK EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY.

[Yogurt manufacturer fined after two employees suffered serious injuries](https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/03/yogurt-manufacturer-fined-after-two-employees-suffered-serious-injuries/).

one of the employees of T M Telford Dairy Ltd suffered serious burns from contact with 1% nitric acid cleaning solution that had a temperature of 650C, when working on a faulty valve on a CIP (cleaning in place) system.

The valve blew off under pressure and the hot acidic cleaning fluid surged out, hitting the roof overhead and spraying on to the employees. Whilst trying to escape from the acidic cleaning fluid, one of the engineers fell from a hooped ladder and sustained a head injury.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to ensure the safety of its employees and that **it had not formally trained the two engineers in lock-off and isolation procedures, use of permits to work and safe removal of valves. There was no assessment of the risks in place for the safe removal of valves.**

T M Telford Dairy Ltd of Donnington Wood, Telford **pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,379.45.**

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/03/yogurt-manufacturer-fined-after-two-employees-suffered-serious-injuries/>

HEALTH SERVICE.

[Tayside Health Board fined after three patients died in acute psychiatric ward](https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/19/tayside-health-board-fined-after-three-patients-died-in-acute-psychiatric-ward/)

Between 1 April 2012 and 4 November 2015 **three patients were able to utilise ligature points to take their own lives**. Patients on Moredun Ward are acutely unwell and often not in a position to ensure their own safety.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that **Tayside Health Board failed to assess, manage and control the risk of severe injury and death associated with ligature anchor points. Private bedrooms within the facility had multiple ligatures points which could have been removed to reduce the risk to patients on the ward. The Health Board failed to effectively communicate risks associated with the ligature points to staff who were required to monitor and assess patients**

Tayside Health Board of Ninewells Hospital, Clepington Road, Dundee pleaded **guilty to breaching Sections 3(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was fined £120,000.**

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/19/tayside-health-board-fined-after-three-patients-died-in-acute-psychiatric-ward/>

WORKPLACE TRANSPORT.

[Banksman crushed by a shovel loader on large waste and recycling site](https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/03/banksman-crushed-by-a-shovel-loader-on-large-waste-and-recycling-site/).

The injured employee was working on foot in the area in his role as banksman, assisting a lorry to manoeuvre into a bay while a shovel loader reversed out of the bay independently, knocking him to the ground and driving over the lower half of his body. He suffered very serious internal injuries and multiple serious fractures, both with significant life changing effects.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that **Viridor Waste Management Limited failed to organise the workplace in such a way that pedestrians and vehicles could circulate in a safe manner. This prosecution is the fourth in 4 years for this company, two of which related to fatal incidents.**

Viridor Waste Management Limited of Crayford Creek, Dartford, **was found in breach of Regulation 4(1) of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 by virtue of Regulation 17(1). The company was fined £400,000.**

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/03/03/banksman-crushed-by-a-shovel-loader-on-large-waste-and-recycling-site/>