

WELCOME to our Risk Management Services E-mail 'News Update'. Our intention is to regularly brief CLA Members on current issues and legislation in the pipeline. We can offer support and assistance in seeking solutions to the many challenges that your business faces due to ever increasing corporate governance and the growing flow of employment and safety legislation.

## MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS >>



Research has shown that approximately two million commercial buildings contain asbestos. In 2001 asbestos related disease claimed 4,700 lives and by 2010 the annual death toll is predicted to reach 10,000.

As asbestos has been widely used in building materials, tracing it can be difficult, but finding and dealing with it is now a government requirement and the deadline for compliance was the 21st May 2004.

Do you know if you've complied with the new regulation? Do you know the condition and location of any asbestos containing materials (ACMs)? Have you assessed the risk to staff and others from your premises? Is there a management plan in place to control the risks from these materials? Is the plan periodically monitored and reviewed?

Unless you can answer 'yes' to all these questions you have not complied with the regulations. As a result there is the potential for a large fine and subsequent bad publicity.

For further information on how we can provide a solution to this problem, call 01234 311269 or visit our website <http://www.clainsurance.co.uk>

## Stop Press

A laundry company was fined £325,000 recently for breaching health and safety rules after a worker became trapped inside a washing machine and died from hypothermia. The Health & Safety Executive said it believed that the unusually large fine was 'appropriate' and would send a message that poor health and safety would be punished by the courts.

## 17% INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL APPLICATIONS FOR 2003-04 >>



The Employment Tribunals Service (ETS) has recently published its Annual Report and Accounts for the year 31st March 2004. During the year 115,042 new employment tribunal applications were registered. This compares to 98,617 in the previous year, a rise of 17%. There was a massive 76% increase in sex discrimination cases.

The average awards were: unfair dismissal £7,275, for race discrimination £26,660, sex discrimination £12,971 and disability discrimination £16,214.

For more information visit our website on <http://www.clainsurance.co.uk>

## NEW SEAT BELT LAW FOR DELIVERY DRIVERS >>



A change in the law on seatbelt use is due to come into force this month, meaning that delivery drivers and their passengers must 'belt up' unless their journey is shorter than fifty metres.

The amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations are due to be effective from May 2005. The change would "make it clear" that delivery drivers and their passengers must wear seatbelts "except on very short journeys" the Department of Transport (DFT) said.

To find out more information visit <http://www.clainsurance.co.uk>

## HSE COMBATS FATAL ACCIDENTS IN AGRICULTURE >>



In the ten year period to 2004, 489 people were killed as a result of agricultural work activities and several thousand more people were injured or became ill. This is one of the worst records of any industry.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has recently released a free interactive software package to help farmers carry out risk assessments of their farms and to raise levels of health and safety awareness across the industry.

The software can be downloaded from the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/assessment/> or a CD-ROM is available via HSE Books.

For more information on this article visit <http://www.clainsurance.co.uk>

A pro-active Health & Safety will improve employee relationships, remove or reduce hidden costs and safeguard against prosecution from the HSE. All employers with 5 or more full or part time staff are required to have in force a written Health & Safety Policy and complete all risk assessments. We can help in the compiling of your Health & Safety Policy and organise audits of existing procedures.

Email [insurance@cla.org.uk](mailto:insurance@cla.org.uk) or for further advice and information call CLA Insurance Risk Management Services on 01234 311269.