

# Safetyline 78

H & S UPDATE JUNE 2007

On 4<sup>th</sup> April HSE published a brief guide to the Work at Height Regulations 2005 as amended by the **Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007**.. The revised regulations introduce a “hierarchy” for managing and selecting equipment for work at height and emphasise the obligations on employers for proper planning and organisation of work at height, taking account of weather conditions, ensuring workers are competent and that the work site is safe, that equipment is properly inspected and that risks from fragile surfaces and falling objects are appropriately controlled. The guide can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg401.pdf>.

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*Due to construction work at the top of Back Lane, the “**Clinical Waste**” store has been temporarily moved to room C17 in the alley connecting Back Lane to the Quad at Firth Court. Refurbishment of room B49 in Firth Court starts on June 1<sup>st</sup> to create a new Clinical Waste store.*

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The **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007** came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The main changes include: clarification of the client’s responsibilities when it’s exercising influence over health and safety standards on its projects; replacement of the role of Planning Supervisor with a CDN Co-ordinator who will advise the client about healthy and safety issues; greater emphasis on the importance of competence at all levels in securing health and safety benefits (with a simplified assessment of competence); elimination of needless paperwork and bureaucracy and simplification of the notification requirements. Guidance about the new Regulations, Key Changes and Guidance for Designers, Contractors and Principal Contractors can be found at <http://www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations/>. At this time Guidance for the new CDM Coordinator role is not yet ready on this website.

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*A new national survey is warning employers to be on their guard against a real fire risk that threatens lives daily in the workplace. The survey reveals the rapid spread of fire due to wedged-open fire doors is the most common fire hazard in commercial and industrial buildings. The ‘**Kick the Wedge**’ survey, a comprehensive UK wide fire safety survey of accredited UK fire risk auditors and fire safety officers, reveals that almost 70 percent of workplaces audited for fire risk were found to be wedging open fire doors. The Survey is part of the ‘Kick the Wedge’ campaign to alert the public and employers about the human tragedy behind fire door wedging, a major malpractice with potentially fatal consequences.*

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A **database of vibration levels for around 2000 tools** has been compiled by the Swedish Institute for Working Life and can be found at: - <http://umetech.niwl.se/eng/default.lasso>

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**No-smoking legislation** - Section 2 of the Health Act 2006 states that enclosed or substantially enclosed premises that are open to the public, or are used as a place of work by more than one person or where members of the public might attend to receive or provide goods or services are to be smokefree. Premises will be considered to be “**enclosed**” if they have a ceiling or roof and, except for doors, windows or passageways, are wholly enclosed, whether on a permanent or temporary basis. Premises will be considered to be “**substantially enclosed**” if they have a ceiling or roof, but there are permanent openings in the walls which are less than half of the total areas of walls, or other structures which serve the purpose of walls and constitute the perimeter of premises. When determining the area of an opening, no account can be taken of openings in which doors, windows or other fittings that can be open or shut. This is known as the 50% rule. On the basis of the above definitions building lobbies enclosed on 3 sides, e.g. Mappin and Hicks Buildings, are deemed to be “substantially enclosed” and therefore subject to the No-smoking requirement. The smoking ban comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July in England. Please help the University by not smoking in areas where the ban is intended to apply. Thank you.

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When signing **Accident Report forms**, please ensure they are completed accurately and fully as some are being sent to us without all the relevant information needed. Thanks.

*Safety Services - working to make your University safer*