

# Wilkins Safety Group

## Weekly Update Newsletter



Welcome to this issue - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 - of our Update Newsletter

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends.

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## Getting H&S Management right



Although we have previously covered this topic, we still get calls from non-clients about the effective management of health and safety and how their company can get compliant.

With all compliance the client does have at least three choices in how they handle the tricky topic of 'effectively managing health and safety'.

Those three choices could be:

1. Do it all in-house with appropriate recruitment of qualified personnel and staff training.
2. Utilise the services of an external consultancy [like The Wilkins Safety Group], do make sure they understand your business requirements and your specific needs.
3. Do nothing and hope there is never an accident or incident [not really an option and not recommended for any company].



**Managing for health and safety is about:**

- Looking after your business
- Looking after your people
- Looking after your reputation

Health and safety and successful business or organisation performance are complementary. Good leaders look after their businesses/organisations, and manage skilled workforces who have confidence in them.



As with all parts of your business/organisation practice, to manage health and safety you need to plan, deliver, check quality and take stock to see what you can improve.

### Business

Good health and safety management and successful business are complementary. You will already have a way of cutting down losses in the goods, services you provide or things you make. Properly applied these controls should also help you manage health and safety. You'll want to do this so that you have well-trained people, healthy and at work.

If you lose key people through poor health and safety, you put the products and work you supply to others at risk. The key is to get your workforce to recognise that managing health and safety is important and your priority value.

### People

When your staff are well-protected and well-trained they add value to your business because they:

- are better motivated;
- take less sickness absence; and
- show greater loyalty.

To involve your workforce you need to:

- set them a good example;
- train them well;
- listen to their concerns; and
- encourage them to suggest solutions to problems



### Reputation

The public and workers expect HSE to take strong enforcement action. Failures can bring penalties of imprisonment or unlimited fines. HSE and local authorities increasingly publicise enforcement decisions and prosecutions. Adverse publicity will:

- put customers off doing business with you;
- prejudice your position on any prequalification or preferential supplier lists; and
- spread a bad reputation more quickly through the industry than good performance.

## Profiling the risk

Every business will have its own risk profile: this is the starting point for determining the greatest health and safety issues to the organisation. In some businesses the risks will be tangible and immediate safety hazards, whereas in other organisations the risks may be health-related and it could be a long time before the illness becomes apparent.

A risk profile examines the nature and level of the threats faced by an organisation, the likelihood of adverse effects occurring, and the level of disruption and costs associated with each type of risk and the effectiveness of controls in place to manage those risks. The range of risks normally include quality (of product or service), environmental, people injury, people ill health and asset damage. Quite often failings in one will indicate failings in another, so poor service quality (say customer complaints) will have a health and safety dimension (damage to goods because of poor forklift truck driving). The pure health and safety risks generally range from low hazard high frequency, such as slips on floors, to high hazard low frequency events, such as an oil refinery explosion, or a self-employed window cleaner falling from a ladder.

Clearly the latter events could destroy the business. These would merit being at the top of the risk profile priority.

The outcome of risk profiling will be:

- The right risks have been identified and prioritised for action
- Minor risks will not be given too much priority
- The level of risk will be reduced to acceptability
- Paperwork and bureaucracy will be to the minimum necessary
- Performance will be reviewed and lessons learned

Further information on risk profiling - HSE guidance:

1. [For small/medium and new to health and safety](#)
2. [For larger/more mature businesses](#)
3. [British Standard Risk management Code of practice BS31100:2008](#)

You must now ask yourself the following questions;

1. Can I really say we have all risks covered and hazards identified?
2. If I had an accident do I have the correct procedures in place?
3. If I had an official inspection could I pass without being served any notices?
4. Do I have the knowledge in-house or do I need to outsource to a consultant?

If you do still have any further questions then drop an email to [jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk](mailto:jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk) or call our office on [01458 253682](tel:01458253682) and we will try to assist.

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## TRAINING COURSES



Have you booked your place on our health and safety training courses yet?

The courses are:

### **Construction Site Health and Safety Awareness – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Designed to provide Health & Safety Awareness for all those working in construction, this 1 day course provides the elements required to achieve the safety element of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme registration certificate

### **Asbestos Awareness Half Day Course – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Asbestos training is a legal requirement** If you work on buildings built or refurbished before the year 2000, asbestos could be present. You will need awareness training so you know how to avoid the risks. If you employ these people, you **must** train them

### **Office Safety Half Day Course – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

In 2001/2002 employers reported 851 major injuries and 2,526 over 3-day injuries in office-based premises. This course has been designed to cover the health and safety requirements in relation to office premises. It will ensure that delegates gain a full understanding of their legal responsibilities, learn how to prevent accidents and know what is required regarding welfare facilities and fire prevention and control.

### **Fire Warden Course – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Fire Marshal or Fire Warden Training is essential to ensure that employees who are designated as a Fire Wardens or Fire Marshals understand their role and their duties within The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Thereby making the workplace a safer environment

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Further details and booking forms available on:

[http://www.wilkinssafety.co.uk/training\\_dates.html](http://www.wilkinssafety.co.uk/training_dates.html).

If you would like to discuss any of the issues highlighted in this newsletter then drop an email to Jon on [jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk](mailto:jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk) or call the office 01458 253682



Your Business is Safer  
Your Business is Safer in Our Hands