

Letter to Branches

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General Secretary: Billy Hayes (www.billyhayes.co.uk)

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To: All Branches

Dear Colleagues

Health and Safety Law - What you need to know - Changes to Information for Employees' Regulations

As previously reported to Branches and Safety Representatives there have been changes to the information for employees' regulations. This involves the current health and safety poster which has to be displayed in all workplaces and leaflets must be replaced by the new versions by no later than 5 April 2014. The new version will have no requirement to put in the details of the enforcing authority or EMAS. It would be acceptable for the poster to include details of how to find out who the enforcing authority is. Out of date posters may also be on display for up to five years after becoming obsolete. The HSE has set a five year transition period. The HSE has produced a new style poster to replace the existing poster which has been in use for many years. Employers will be able to check that they have a genuine HSE law poster by checking the unique, serially numbered hologram on each poster. HSE has managed to keep the price of the new poster and packs of the pocket cards the same. The poster is being printed using a new fully bio-degradable form of plastic. Employers are also able to provide a small leaflet version to employees if they wish as opposed to displaying the poster. The HSE has also produced a new leaflet to coincide with the change to the legislation. SEE COPY ATTACHED OF HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW. Safety Representatives may wish to reproduce or obtain copies to distribute to members themselves as part of health and safety awareness exercises or on workplace inspections.

Some of the key points:-

All workers have a right to work in places where risks to their health and safety are properly controlled.

Health and safety is about stopping you getting hurt at work or ill through work. Your employer is responsible for health and safety.

Employers:

Employers must decide what could harm you in your job and take precautions to stop it. (risk assessment).

Employers must explain how risks will be controlled and tell you who is responsible for this.

Employers must consult and work with you and your health and safety representatives in protecting everyone from harm in the workplace.

Employers must provide free health and safety training you need to do your job.

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Employers must provide free of charge equipment and protective clothing you need and ensure it is properly looked after.

Employers must provide toilets, washing facilities and drinking water.

Employers must provide adequate first-aid facilities.

Employers must report injuries, diseases and dangerous incidents at work.

Employers must have insurance that covers you in case you get hurt at work or ill through work.

Employers must Display a hard copy or electronic copy of the current insurance certificate where you can easily read it.

Employers must work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace or providing employees (such as agency workers), so that everyone's health and safety is protected just the same.

Workers:

Workers must follow the training they have received when using any work items their employer has given them.

Workers must take reasonable care of their own and other people's health and safety.

Workers must co-operate with their employer on health and safety.

Workers must tell someone (employer, manager, supervisor, or health and safety representative) if they think the work or inadequate precautions are putting anyone's health and safety at serious risk.

Workers worried about unresolved health and safety problems can contact their Union Health and Safety Representative or phone the HSE Infoline. 0845 345 0055

Yours Sincerely

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer



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