



Hurst Setter & Associates Ltd

Health Safety & Environmental Newsletter Aug 2020

Hurst Setter aims to provide commercially sound health and safety advice, practical on-site assistance, and training services to help clients to improve their overall health, safety and environmental performance and business efficiency. Health & safety is no longer a business where you just find fault and try to 'stop the job', it is now a role where a common sense approach needs to be applied to ensure a job can be completed safely ensuring that everyone returns home from work to their families at the end of the working day.

At the same time as being an external consultancy who are used for expert advice, we also work really hard to ensure they are part of the team for all clients. Hurst Setter pride themselves in being able to use expert knowledge of the industry and legislation to be a cog in the wheel to help our clients achieve their health & safety goals.

The company was established in 1992, we have an experienced team of professional staff throughout the UK with our Head Office in Burton upon Trent, subsidiary offices in Yorkshire and Wiltshire, along with field staff working throughout the UK. In this way we can offer a national coverage to large national based clients.

Our mission is to provide competent health, safety & environmental advice to our clients. We focus primarily on construction, project management and property management sectors.

We provide an extensive range of training including CITB accredited training courses as well as inhouse courses.

Health & Safety Services

At Hurst Setter we provide a range of services that covers the entire spectrum of health and safety provision. Our services include:

- Audits & Inspections
- Retainer Service & Assistance with SSIP Accreditation
- Support with H&S Documentation, Risk Assessments & Policy
- H&S Management Systems
- Training Courses including CITB, First Aid, Mental Health, and In-House Training Courses, including remote courses during COVID 19.
- NEBOSH General (online) in association with another training provider.
- Environmental Services
- CDM 2015 Advice & Support

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The HSE website www.hse.gov.uk is gratefully acknowledged as a primary source for information

Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease reports made by employers to HSE and Local Authorities since 10 April 2020

Where a worker has been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and there is reasonable evidence to suggest that it was caused by occupational exposure, employers are required to report the case to the relevant enforcing authority under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013(RIDDOR).

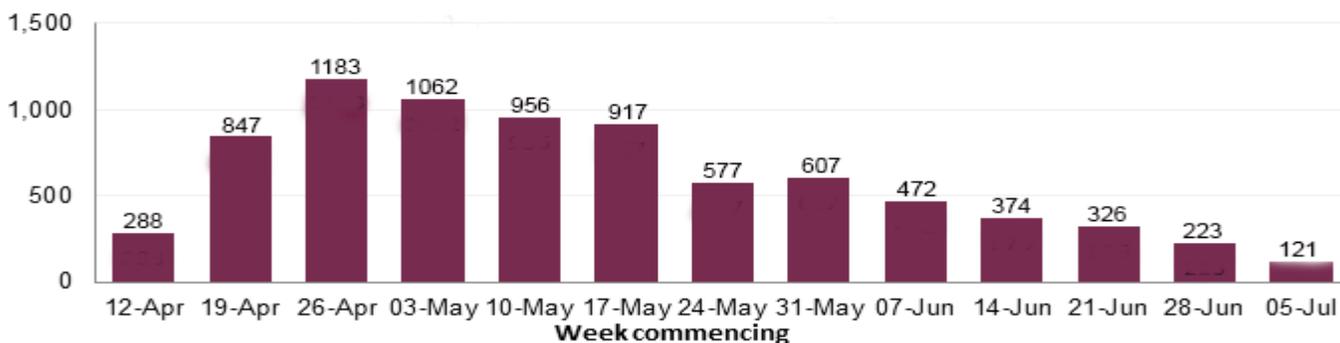
Latest published figures up to week ending 11 July show:

- 7,971 disease notifications of COVID-19 in workers where occupational exposure is suspected were reported to enforcing authorities (HSE and LAs) over the period 10th April – 11 July, including 119 death notifications.
- Around 80% of all worker reported cases (fatal and non-fatal) since 10 April were in HSE enforced workplaces.
- The majority of reports received since 10th April are for workers in the Health and Social Work sector (including for example hospitals, residential homes and day care). Around 75% of reports were recorded by employers against these activities,

although the actual percentage may be higher as it is known that many reports for this sector get misclassified by employers, particularly to the accommodation sector and to other personal services.

- 85% of worker COVID-19 reports received since 10 April were from workplaces in England, 8% in Wales and 7% in Scotland.
- The number of COVID-19 notifications made to enforcing authorities has generally fallen week-on-week since beginning of May, and is now at the lowest weekly level since week commencing 12 April (consistent weekly data is unavailable prior to then).

Total suspected occupational COVID-19 reports made by employers to the Enforcing Authorities, 12 April to 11 July 2020.



Bar chart showing the rising and falling trend of COVID-19 reports, beginning at 288 on 12 April, the peak of 1183 is reached on 26 April reducing to the lowest number of 121 by 5 July.

All cases that are reported to HSE and Local Authorities are being assessed and investigations initiated where incidents meet their published Incident Selection Criteria.

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Face coverings and face masks at work during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Face Coverings

Face coverings are mainly intended to protect others and not the wearer. The risk of COVID infection at work must be managed by following the right controls, including:

- Social distancing or, where that is not possible, reducing the number of people in the work area.
- High standards of hand hygiene.
- Increasing surface washing.
- Assigning and keeping people to shift teams.
- Using screens and barriers to separate people from each other.

These are the best ways of managing risk in the workplace. You can find specific guidance on working safely during the coronavirus outbreak on this link;

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/index.htm>

If your workers choose to wear face coverings you should support them. There are some circumstances when wearing a face covering is required as a precautionary measure.

Face coverings are not classed as personal protective equipment (PPE) as they:

- Are generally not manufactured to a recognised standard and not CE marked.
- Do not provide a proven level of protection for work risks such as dust and spray.

There is more advice on face coverings on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



Example of a face covering.

Surgical face masks

Surgical face masks are designed to be normally worn in medical settings to limit the spread of infection. Wearing them should be very limited outside of healthcare activities because they are not generally considered to be PPE in non-healthcare situations.

Unlike face coverings, they:

- Are manufactured to a recognised standard.
- Are resistant to droplets of fluids and splashes



Example of a surgical mask.

£1.1m Fine After Ladder Fall

A London-based relocation and refurbishment company has been fined after a worker was seriously injured when he fell from height.

Luton Crown Court heard that on 5 September 2016, an engineer was testing a sprinkler system for leaks at a site in Hemel Hempstead. He climbed onto an internal roof and was inspecting the leak from an extension ladder. The ladder slipped away from him and he fell almost three metres into the gap between the internal roof and the external wall. The worker suffered severe blood loss, amounting to around half of his bloodstream. He required

a blood transfusion and needed 14 stiches to his head. He also sustained a fractured vertebrae and suffered soft tissue damage.

The HSE investigation found that reasonably practicable measures had not been taken to prevent a fall from the internal roof for both the engineer and other contractors working on the roof. The investigation found that Modus Workspace Limited, the principal contractor, had failed to discharge its duty to ensure those not in their employment were not exposed to risks, in particular that of falling from height.

Modus Workspace Limited of Greencoat Place, London was found guilty after a five-week trial of breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1.1 million and ordered to pay costs of £68,116.18.

After the sentencing, HSE Inspector John Berezansky, commented: "This case highlights the importance of taking reasonably practicable measures when planning and managing the risks regarding work at height within the construction industry.

"Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work-related fatalities and injuries in this country and the risks and control measures associated with working at height are well known.

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“The engineer’s injuries were life changing and he could have easily been killed. This serious incident and devastation could have been avoided if basic safety measures had been put in place.”

Gail Hounslea, Chairman of the Ladder Association, commented: “It is clear from this case that the company failed to put in place basic safety measures and in doing so, failed in its duty to ensure the safety of its employees and other contractors on site. Unfortunately, this avoidable accident had life-changing consequences for the victim. The level of fine imposed, in excess of £1m, is reflective of the seriousness of the incident and while we never wish to hear of these, we hope it does highlight the responsibilities placed on employers to keep their employees safe at work.

“The Ladder Association urges all companies who use ladders in the workplace to comply with their legal and moral duties to safeguard employees – by doing so, we know there is a far greater likelihood that accidents such as this can be avoided.”

Who can use a leaning ladder at work?

To use a ladder you need to be competent, i.e. have had instruction and understand how to use the equipment safely.

Appropriate training can help. If you are being trained, you should work under the supervision of somebody who can perform the task competently. Training can often take place on the job.

Check your leaning ladder before you use it

Before starting a task, you should always carry out a ‘pre-use’ check to spot any obvious visual defects to make sure the ladder is safe to use.

A pre-use check should be carried out:

- By the user.
- At the beginning of the working day.
- After something has changed, e.g. a ladder has been dropped or moved from a dirty area to a

Leaning ladders

When using a leaning ladder to carry out a task:

- Only carry light materials and tools – read the manufacturers’ labels on the ladder and assess the risks.
- Don’t overreach – make sure your belt buckle (navel) stays within the stiles.

clean area (check the state or condition of the feet).

- Check the stiles – make sure they are not bent or damaged, as the ladder could buckle or collapse.
- Check the feet – if they are missing, worn or damaged the ladder could slip. Also check ladder feet when moving from soft/dirty ground (eg dug soil, loose sand/ stone, a dirty workshop) to a smooth, solid surface (eg paving slabs), to make sure the foot material and not the dirt (eg soil, chippings or embedded stones) is making contact with the ground.
- Check the rungs – if they are bent, worn, missing or loose the ladder could fail.
- Check any locking mechanisms – if they are bent or the fixings are worn or damaged the ladder could collapse. Ensure any locking bars are engaged.
- If you spot any defects, don’t use the ladder and notify your employer.
- Make sure it is long enough or high enough for the task.
- Don’t overload it – consider workers’ weight and the equipment or materials they are carrying before working at height, check the pictogram or label on the ladder for information.
- Make sure the ladder angle is at 75° – you should use the 1 in 4 rule (i.e. 1 unit out for every 4 units up).



 **Figure 1** Ladder showing the correct 1 in 4 angle (means of securing omitted for clarity)



 **Figure 2** Correct – user maintaining three points of contact (means of securing omitted for clarity)

- Always grip the ladder and face the ladder rungs while climbing or descending – don't slide down the stiles.
- Don't try to move or extend ladders while standing on the rungs.
- Don't work off the top three rungs, and try to make sure the ladder extends at least 1 m (three rungs) above where you are working.
- Don't stand ladders on moveable objects, such as pallets, bricks, lift trucks, tower scaffolds, excavator buckets, vans, or mobile elevating work platforms.
- Avoid holding items when climbing (consider using a tool belt).
- Don't work within 6 m horizontally of any overhead power line, unless it has been made dead or it is protected with insulation. Use a non-conductive

- ladder (e.g. fibreglass or timber) for any electrical work.
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing (this means a hand and two feet) and wherever possible at the work position.
- Where you cannot maintain a handhold, other than for a brief period (eg to hold a nail while starting to knock it in, starting a screw etc), you will need to take other measures to prevent a fall or reduce the consequences if one
- Happened.
- For a leaning ladder, you should secure it (eg by tying the ladder to prevent it from slipping either outwards or sideways) and have a strong upper resting point, ie do not rest a ladder against weak upper surfaces (eg
- glazing or plastic gutters).
- You could also use an effective stability device.