



Hurst Setter & Associates Ltd

Health Safety & Environmental Newsletter October 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

Health and Safety Initiative October 2020 Crack Down on Dust

Health and safety inspectors across Great Britain will be targeting construction firms to check that their health standards are up to scratch during a month-long inspection initiative, starting on Monday 5 October 2020.

This is the fourth health-focused initiative of its kind. As in previous years, inspections will focus on respiratory risks and occupational lung disease; looking at the measures businesses have in place to protect their workers' lungs from the likes of asbestos, silica and wood dust. This is part of HSE's longer term health and work strategy to improve health within the construction industry.

While the primary focus will be on health during this programme of inspections, if a HSE inspector identifies any other areas of concern, they will take the necessary enforcement action to deal with them. This will include making sure that businesses are doing all they can to protect their workers from the risk of coronavirus and make workplaces COVID-secure.



Inspectors will also be looking for evidence of employers and workers knowing the risks, planning their work and using the right controls. If necessary, they will use enforcement to make sure people are protected. The construction initiative will be supported by HSE's 'Dust buster' campaign, aimed to influence employer behaviour by encouraging builders to download free guidance and advice, increasing knowledge and capability to protect workers' health.

More than 3,500 builders die each year from cancers related to their work, with thousands more cases of ill-health and working days lost.

HSE's chief inspector of construction, Sarah Jardine, said: "Around 100 times as many workers die from diseases caused or made worse by their work than are actually killed in construction accidents.

"Our inspection initiatives ensure that inspectors are able to speak to duty holders and visit sites to look at the kind of action businesses in the construction industry are taking right now to protect their workers' health, particularly when it comes to exposure to dust and damage to lungs.

“There are a few simple things that everyone can do to make sure they are protecting their health and their future. Be aware of the risks associated with activities you do every day, recognise the dangers of hazardous dust and consider how it can affect your health. We want businesses and their workers to think of the job from start to finish and avoid creating dust by working in different ways to keep dust down and wear the right mask and clothing.”

Contractor Fined for Ignoring Silica Dust Warning

A specialist playground installation and landscaping contractor has been fined after failing to provide employees with adequate protection against respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

Greater Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how on 23 March 2018, the HSE carried out an unannounced inspection of a site in Radcliffe.

The HSE inspector served a Prohibition Notice to stop two employees of Playscape Design Ltd using a powered tool to cut flagstones without any respiratory protective equipment.

This put the health of the employees at risk due to exposure to RCS, which is released when silica-containing materials are cut with a powered tool.

HSE then served an Improvement Notice, requiring the company to provide adequate control from exposure to RCS.

The investigation found the company did not provide evidence of compliance within the deadline and a second, similar job was completed at the same site with no adequate control measures in place.

Playscape Design Limited of Lancashire, pleaded guilty to breaching safety regulations and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,000.

HSE inspector Rebecca Hamer, said after the hearing: “Exposure to respirable crystalline silica can cause life-threatening diseases including silicosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), which can lead to impaired lung function, lung cancer and death.

“This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

“Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”



First Aid During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

First aid in non-healthcare settings

This newsletter will help employers ensure first aiders are confident that they can help someone injured or ill at work during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Employers and their first aiders should take account of the specific guidance on giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from the Resuscitation Council UK.

Check your first aid needs assessment

As an employer, when reviewing your risk assessment to include working during the pandemic, consider refreshing your first aid at work needs assessment. Ask your first aiders if there are any factors that should be taken into account as part of your risk assessment, for example vulnerable workers with first aid responsibilities.

You should discuss the risk assessment with your first aiders, so they are confident about providing the right assistance. This includes knowing what equipment they can use to minimise risk of infection transmission, as explained below.

Guidance for first aiders

Try to assist at a safe distance from the casualty as much as you can and minimise the time you share a breathing zone. If they are capable, tell them to do things for you, but treating the casualty properly should be your first concern. Remember the 3P model – Preserve life, Prevent worsening, Promote recovery.

Preserve life – CPR:

- Call 999 immediately – tell the call handler if the patient has any COVID-19 symptoms.

- Ask for help. If a portable defibrillator is available, ask for it.
- Before starting CPR, to minimise transmission risk, use a cloth or towel to cover the patient's mouth and nose, while still permitting breathing to restart following successful resuscitation.

If available, use:

- A fluid-repellent surgical mask.
- Disposable gloves.
- Eye protection.
- Apron or other suitable covering.
- Only deliver CPR by chest compressions and use a defibrillator (if available) – don't do rescue breaths.

Prevent worsening, promote recovery - all other injuries or illnesses:

- If you suspect a serious illness or injury, call 999 immediately – tell the call handler if the patient has any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If giving first aid to someone, you should use the recommended equipment listed above if it is available.
- You should minimise the time you share a breathing zone with the casualty and direct them to do things for you where possible.

After delivering any first aid

- Ensure you safely discard disposable items and clean reusable ones thoroughly.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser as soon as possible.



First Aid Cover and Qualifications During the Pandemic

If first aid cover for your business is reduced because of coronavirus or you can't get the first aid training you need, there are some things you can do so that you still comply with the law.

You should review your first aid needs assessment and decide if you can still provide the cover needed for the workers that are present and the activities that they are doing.

Keep enough first aid cover

If fewer people are coming into your workplace it may still be safe to operate with reduced first aid cover. You could also stop higher-risk activities.

Share first aid cover with another business

You could share the first aiders of another business, but be sure that they have the knowledge, experience and availability to cover the first aid needs of your business.

Shared first aiders must:

- Be aware of the type of injuries or illnesses that you identified in your first aid needs assessment and have the training and skills to address them.
- Know enough about your work environment and its first aid facilities.
- Be able to get to the workplace in good time if needed.
- Whoever provides the temporary cover must make sure they do not adversely affect their own first aid cover.

First aid certificate extensions

First Aid at Work (FAW) and Emergency First aid at Work (EFAW) certificates requalification. First aid providers have resumed first aid training and assessment. In some cases, there remains a back log or limited availability.

FAW or EFAW certificates that expired after 16 March 2020 can remain valid until 31 October 2020 or 6 months from date of expiry, whichever is later. All requalification training for these certificates should be completed by 31 March 2021.

To qualify for the extension, employers must be able to demonstrate that:

- They have made every effort to arrange requalification training as soon as possible and can explain in detail why they have not been able to do so. For example, they must show evidence that staff with expired certificates are booked on to EFAW or FAW requalification courses, if requested by an inspector.
- They have adequate and appropriate equipment and facilities to give first aid to any employee who is injured or becomes ill at work.
- The level of first aid cover provided remains appropriate for their particular work environment.
- The level of first aid provision necessary in high risk settings is fully maintained, e.g. in construction, agriculture, engineering and chemicals.
- This guidance now applies to employers in England, Scotland and Wales.



Annual refresher training

If first aiders are unable to access annual refresher training face to face during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, HSE supports the use of online refresher training to keep their skills up to date.

Interrupted first aid training

If because of coronavirus you cannot complete training for your first aid qualification within the usual timeframe, training can restart at a later date as long as:

HSE still strongly recommends that the practical elements of actual FAW, EFAW and requalification courses are delivered face to face, so that competency of the student can be accurately assessed.

- A full recap of training delivered before the interruption is done before moving onto undelivered modules.
- The awarding body is content that you can show:
- A full understanding of all aspects of the course content.
- The knowledge required and competencies at the end of the training.

First Aid Needs Assessment

HSE cannot tell you what provision you should make for first aid. You, as an employer, are best placed to understand the exact nature of your workplace and decide what you need to provide.

First aid provision must be 'adequate and appropriate in the circumstances'. This means that you must provide sufficient first aid equipment (first aid kit), facilities and personnel at all times.

In order to decide what provision you need to make you should undertake a first aid needs assessment. This assessment should consider the circumstances of your workplace, workforce and the hazards and risks that may be present. The findings will help you decide what first-aid arrangements you need to put in place.

In assessing your first-aid needs, you should consider:

- The nature of the work you do.
- Workplace hazards and risks (including specific hazards requiring special arrangements).
- The nature and size of your workforce.
- The work patterns of your staff.
- Holiday and other absences of those who will be first-aiders and appointed persons.
- Your organisation's history of accidents.

You may also need to consider:

- The needs of travelling, remote and lone workers.
- The distribution of your workforce.
- The remoteness of any of your sites from emergency medical services.
- Whether your employees work on shared or multi-occupancy sites.
- First-aid provision for non-employees (e.g. members of the public).

HSE has published further guidance on all the factors above that will help you carry out your first aid needs assessment.