



## CONSTRUCTION SKILLS GRANTS TO END?

Several clients have asked if reports that grants available to levy payers for the Site Safety Plus Scheme will end. We have contacted Construction Skills who have advised us that a new grant scheme will start in August 2010. The new scheme contains a number of changes. These include:

- Setting the total apprenticeship package at £9,000 over 3 or 4 years to simplify the scheme.
- Setting a maximum of £6,000 support for undergraduates in their placement year.
- Setting a single achievement rate of £275 for vocational qualifications at level 2 and above.
- Awarding an additional £7.50 per day for Technical and Professional students.
- A 3 day limit on training days for labour-only subcontractors.
- Setting a 10 per cent supplementary payment across all grant rates to simplify the scheme.
- Preserving plant technical tests. However, rates will be reduced by 25%.
- Limiting the average number of grant aided training days on a training plan and short duration training at three days – slightly above the current industry average. For example, for 100 employees, 300 days for maximum grant.



It is not yet known how this will affect grants for courses such as the 5 day Site Management Safety Training Scheme. Please contact the local Construction Skills Grant Office with any questions regarding this or any other grant. Further details are available from [www.cskills.org](http://www.cskills.org)

For clients who wish to book any of the Site Safety Plus courses, available dates from our scheduled training calendar are detailed below. We are also able to provide closed courses for six or more delegates.

	JULY 2010	AUG 2010	SEPT 2010
5 day Site Management Safety Training Scheme		02–06	01, 02, 06, 07, 08 & 13
2 day Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme	20-21	31–01 Sept	29–30
2 day Site Management Safety Refresher Scheme	29–30	25–26	27–28
1 day Site Safety Awareness Scheme (pre CSCS test)	16	13	17

## HEALTH & SAFETY EXHIBITION 2010

We were pleased to welcome many clients to our stand during the recent Health & Safety Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham. We take this opportunity to welcome new and prospective clients that we met during the exhibition to our Safety Matters Newsletter.

We also specialise in the provision of transport planning, highway and infrastructure engineering, drainage and flood risk matters. Our services include initial appraisals, feasibility studies, detailed design, construction and supervision of projects.



## ENVIRONMENTAL

### MANAGING RESOURCES TO SAVE MONEY

Have you considered resource efficiency in the operation of your business? If not then you could be missing the opportunity to make savings associated with good environmental management practices.

Envirowise is a government-funded programme which provides confidential advice to UK businesses on environmental issues. It claims that "The true cost of waste includes waste raw materials, energy and labour, and can be 5 to 20 times the cost of disposal. While many UK manufacturers have adopted recycling measures, there are also opportunities to reduce and re-use materials as well – actions that can substantially benefit the bottom line".

Everyday items including water, energy, packaging, transport, raw materials and waste are drawn from finite resources taken from our planet, and such finite resources require management.

Resource efficiency allows organisations to streamline operations, cut down on wastage and collectively make significant savings in costs.

The Department for Business Innovation & Skills published the details of an SME that successfully introduced resource efficiency with the following benefits:

- £20,000 p.a. savings realised by cutting the energy usage by 80%.
- Eliminated gas use that contributes significantly to a reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- Qualified for Carbon Trust interest free finance. £50,000 p.a. saved in total from implementing more energy efficient measures.



## NEWS

### NEW GOVERNMENT ACTION ON SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The prime minister has backed up his claim of being "passionate about building a green economy" by outlining plans for a green deal for energy efficiency investment, a floor price for carbon, and a commitment to reduce central government carbon emissions by 10 per cent within a year.

In addition, The Daily Mail has reported that David Cameron has announced plans to tear up a decade of health & safety rules that have been blamed for "crippling business and stifling British way of life". Cameron has appointed the Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham as Adviser to the Prime Minister on health and safety law and practice. Lord Young will undertake a Whitehall-wide review of the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture.

Commenting on his new role, Lord Young said: "I hope my review will reintroduce an element of common sense and focus the regulation where it is most needed. We need a system that is proportionate and not bureaucratic." For further information see [www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

### ROOFERS FINED £200 EACH FOR WORKING DANGEROUSLY AT HEIGHT

Two self-employed roofers have been fined at Chippenham Magistrates Courts for failing to take appropriate safety precautions when working on a private building in Wiltshire. Both defendants admitted breaching Regulation 6 (3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by working without any safety nets, edge protection or any other kind of safety precaution.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector, Simon Chilcott, said "We will always seek to take enforcement action where we find poor safety standards in roof work".

### COUNCIL AND CONTRACTORS FINED FOR UNSAFE ASBESTOS REMOVAL

A local authority and its contractor have been fined after a worker left a family exposed to dangerous asbestos fibres for three days. City of Lincoln Council and County Waste (Lincs) Ltd were prosecuted by the HSE after allowing asbestos insulation boards to be incorrectly removed.

**Q** My staff have asked to be sent on a manual handling training course. What should the course cover?

**A** The HSE does not publish prescriptive guidance on what a 'good' manual handling training course should include. Courses should be suitable for the individual, tasks and environment involved, use relevant examples and last long enough to cover all the relevant information, including:

Manual handling risk factors and how injuries can occur; how to carry out safe manual handling, including good handling technique; appropriate systems of work for the individual's task and environment; use of mechanical aids; and practical work to allow the trainer to identify and put right anything the trainee is not doing safely.

The HSE say that "As an employer you should ensure that sufficient records are kept to show who has been trained, when the training was carried out and what the content of the course was. You should establish a planned training programme to ensure all staff receive basic training, with updates as required. This programme should also cover new starters to try to ensure training takes place either before or as close to starting a new job as possible. Managers may also wish to monitor sickness absence and near-miss reporting as one way to assess the effectiveness of the training.

**Q** Do I need a licence to work with asbestos?

**A** The Asbestos Regulations 2006 ban anyone from carrying out work with asbestos unless they hold (or work for someone who holds) a licence granted by the HSE. There are exemptions as specified in section 3(2) of the Regulations which states that "a licence will not be required where the exposure of employees to asbestos is sporadic and of low intensity; it is clear from the risk assessment that the exposure of any employee will not exceed the control limit; and the work involves – short, non-continuous maintenance activities, removal of materials in which the asbestos fibres are firmly linked in a matrix, encapsulation or sealing of asbestos-containing materials which are in good condition, or air monitoring and control, and the collection and analysis of samples to ascertain whether a specific material contains asbestos".

Further information is available on the HSE website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk).

## Q&A

Advice Line Number:  
01793 828000



ANSWERS BY  
DAVE MOORE



**Q** One of my employees has approached me after reading a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for a chemical product used in our workplace and does not want to use the chemical anymore because the MSDS states that the chemical can harm an unborn child. We need to use the chemical in our workplace but as employers we do not want to put anyone's health at risk. What should we do?

**A** We've come across this problem several times before where MSDS's give warnings of various health risks and appear to be too volatile for use in the workplace. Any chemical products you use in the workplace must be properly assessed. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 require you to undertake COSHH risk assessments of the chemical products you use. This is a careful examination of the product's chemical properties, how the products are used and the likelihood of harm being caused to human health and wellbeing or the environment. The MSDS sheets don't take this into account and act as a broad warning about the chemical products. Following assessment, we work with our clients to ensure all chemical products used can be used in a safe manner.

**Q** Can I wedge open fire doors temporarily, e.g. if the weather is hot?

**A** No. The basic principle is that fire doors should not be wedged open under any circumstances. There is a slight relaxation to this rule if a fire door is open for very short periods, e.g. when moving something from one room to another.

Disclaimer: The above answers have been given in good faith but are a brief summary of the full advice given in respect of more detailed questions. Readers should seek specific advice on any similar and related matters.

## NEW COURSES



### CIEH - CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Due to client demand we are expanding our portfolio of courses to include nationally recognised qualifications. We now offer the following courses:

#### Level 3 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS)

The CIEH recently launched the Level 3 Trainers course. For more information on this course visit the [www.lluk.org](http://www.lluk.org) website.

#### Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work

This 1 day course is HSE recognised and follows recent changes in the First Aid legislation. Emergency First Aid at Work replaces the Appointed First Aid.

#### Level 2 Award in Principles of COSHH

Enabling delegates to understand the scope and range of hazardous substances health effects, identification, guidance, control measures, and the purpose and content of COSHH risk assessments.

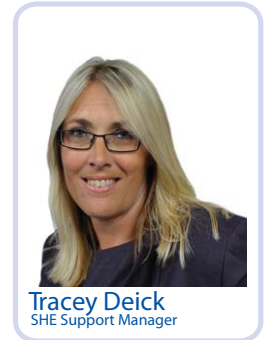
#### Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace

Enabling delegates to understand health and safety requirements placed on both employers and employees, safe systems of work, hazards and risks for both safety

and occupational health risks and health, safety and welfare provisions at work.

#### Level 2 Award in Principles of Risk Assessment

Enabling delegates to understand the causes of accidents and ill health, legal requirements for risk assessments, principles of risk assessments including hazards and risks, five steps to risk assessments, hierarchy of control and review and record keeping.



Tracey Deick  
SHE Support Manager

#### Level 2 Award in Environmental Principles and Best Practice

Enabling delegates to understand the key terms used in Environmental Management, local and global environmental impacts of their organisation, basic principles and key concepts, business benefits of adopting an environmental management system.



### NEBOSH – NATIONAL EXAMINATION BOARD OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

NEBOSH is a globally recognised and respected examination board relevant to all industry sectors. Subject to accreditation we aim to provide the following courses by late 2010.

#### NEBOSH National Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

This qualification is designed to provide delegates with the expertise required to undertake a career as a health and safety practitioner. It builds directly upon the foundation

of knowledge provided by the NEBOSH National General Certificate.

#### NEBOSH Health and Safety at Work Award

Providing a basic understanding of health and safety principles and practices in the workplace. An ideal first step towards other higher level NEBOSH qualifications including NEBOSH's International General Certificate and National General Certificate. Available dates for the NEBOSH National General Certificate can be seen below.

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NEBOSH National General Certificate **promotional rate of £1,255 per delegate if order is placed by 23 July 2010** (Normal price per delegate £1,455 plus VAT inclusive of course materials & NEBOSH examination fees).

13 Day NEBOSH General Certificate

Week 1: 26-30 July 2010

Week 2: 16-20 August 2010

Revision/Exams: 08,09 & 10 September 2010

Week 1: 01-05 November

Week 2: 22-26 November

Revision/Exams: 08, 09 & 10 December 2010

Following requests for a day release option for the NEBOSH General Certificate, we are pleased to offer the following dates for our first day release programme.

#### NEW Day Release dates for 2010

NEBOSH General Certificate

29 September

06, 13, 20, 27 October

03, 10, 17, 24 November

01 December 2010

Revision and Exams 08, 09 & 10 December 2010