

Is your construction site ready for HSE?

HSE are continuing their Construction Health Inspection Initiative and will run this from Monday 5th October to Friday 30th October 2020.

Is your site ready for them?

The initiative was set up as part of wider plan to improve health within the construction industry.

Health and Safety inspectors will be targeting construction sites across Great Britain.

The initiative will be focusing on respiratory risks imposed by construction works, and also COVID security, since this has become a critical health risk to the human race.

Although, primarily, they will be on site ensuring you working safely in line with this initiative, it is their duty to stop any unsafe works so perhaps it is time to re-evaluate how you are currently working?

Guidance for Metalworking fluids have been revised...

Do you know what these changes could be? Could they affect your works?

What are metalworking fluids?

'Metalworking Fluids (MWFs) are neat oils or water-based fluids used during the machining and shaping of metals to provide lubrication and cooling. They are sometimes referred to as suds, coolants, slurry or soap.'

The updated guidance has been written by the United Kingdom Lubricants Association (UKLA) in cooperation with HSE to ensure the comprehensive guidance could be written to provide advice on how to maintain metalworking fluids to prevent ill-health in machine workshops.

The advice complements guidance already released as part of the COSHH essentials sheets.

The updates they have made include further advice on appropriate health surveillance and acting on dipslide results. If you would like to download this document yourself, you can find it by following this HSE link > <https://www.hse.gov.uk/metalworking/hse.htm>

– 'A good practice guide for safe handling and disposal of MWF's'



HSE have revised their guidance on first aid again, did you know?

HSE have extended their first aid certificate extensions further. Any certificates which expired after the 16th March will remain valid until 31st October 2020 or 6 months from date of expiry, whichever is later.

All requalification training for these must be completed by 31st March 2021 at the latest.

During the pandemic lockdown HSE issued a notice to confirm any expired first aid certificates after 16th March would be granted an extension period.

Once the country began to open again, they set a deadline of September 2020. However, it has come to light that there is a great back log of expired certificates and limited availability, so they have decided to change the deadline to help companies out.

To qualify for the extension, HSE have stated employers must be able to demonstrate:

- *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, eg in construction, agriculture, engineering, and chemicals.*

