

4th February - World Cancer Day

The construction industry plays a huge part to this disease, causing past and present employees some serious illnesses. However, it is not too late to start helping.

Although the clock can not be turned back, we can learn from our past mistakes and make the future much better.

Most construction related cancers are predominantly cancer of the lungs caused by asbestos, and from what we also know now, silica. Without protection an individual can breathe in the tiny fibres from these substances and are causing themselves serious harm. Not only can they cause cancer, but there are also many other life threatening and unpleasant illnesses they contribute to, such as COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease).

Cancer in construction has also been linked to other factors such as Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions (DEEE) and painters, who expose themselves daily to works involving sanding, spraying and solvents.

It is important you protect your employees against these hazards. You need to assess the risks of your work activities and reduce, so far as reasonably practicable, the hazards associated. The hazards could be reduced through means of LEV Systems, dust suppression equipment, like water dampening effects as this dampens the dust before it can expose people. As a last resort, because all other avenues have been explored, an employer could also provide their employees with PPE such as face fitted masks.

The United Kingdom have officially left the EU, but what could this mean to you?

Leaving the EU will impact some companies sooner than others, but we are here to help you with this transition.

Now our laws and regulations are not governed by a mutual party, there could be numerous changes to our industries and workplaces to conform to the new way.

As an employer it is your duty to ensure you keep up to date with changes and apply them to your industry as required.

According to HSE the first areas due change are the following;

- Chemicals industry and the safe management of chemicals
- Placing civil explosives on the market
- Manufacture and supply of new work equipment



For more detailed information on each category please visit the HSE website; <https://www.hse.gov.uk/brexit/>.