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HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN – MAY 2006

After a hectic time involving all the crew – we arrive with our new logo – re-organisation of the Group and a welcome, officially!, to Bryan Smith as our General Manager... along with a move to our new and very modern office in Folkestone!

Meantime – the inspections and investigations continue apace :-

- There have been several ‘descendings’ by the HSE Inspectorate of late – attacking Farmers, Builders and Shops in particular, it would seem!
- Manual handling is certainly one issue to the foreground – they have even won a major action against the manual handling of baggage by a large Company on and off aircraft at Manchester – the HSE proved – up against expert evidence as the Company fought back – that the manual handling was inadequate for the task in hand and the Company did not control risks properly....SO BE WARNED! You simply must assess the type of lift and shift within your organisation and ensure that repetitive handling is taken care of via another method rather than manual handling – sack barrows, trolleys, hoists etc. etc.
- The following Orders, Regs. And Codes of Practice are out – if they affect, or could affect, your trading then ensure you get hold of copies:-
 1. Consultation document (HSE) ‘Improving Worker Involvement and Improving Health & Safety
 2. The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Fitting Date) Regulations 2006;
 3. The Disability Discrimination Code of Practice (Supplement to Part 3 Code of Practice) (Provision of and Use of Transport Vehicles)
- It is a legal requirement that every company in the UK has to provide health & safety training to each of its employees and staff – can you prove you are doing so? ‘Toolbox’ talks and sessions should be logged in the day diary and planned to make them short, effective and of interest – DO IT!!
- Farmers have been targeted – probably due to a rise reported in accidents whilst at work in the Industry – Farms are already dangerous places and our Inspectors are always up against “I’ve been doing it this way for 40 years!” characters – well, this has to change quicker than even we achieve through showing best practice – the farming trade simply has to adopt new approaches to health, welfare and safety or they face even greater fines, imprisonment, maiming and death – other industries have managed to change their thinking and so must our customers in and around farming and food production!
- The web site is rapidly changing the way we buy and sell – fine, but take care: large plant items, electrical goods and chemicals all require risk assessments and testing before removal from site; there is often a requirement for control of sub-contractors, for project managing the removal, uplift operation and both sellers, buyers and contractors are all exposed to health & safety law and disciplines – don’t rush into – or out of – a quick sale without giving a proper, written, risk assessment to the deal....or stand by for fines, imprisonment, maiming and death!!
- I’m musing a bit here (obviously ready for a liquid lunch!) – What does an undertakers risk assessment read like? “You take one Stiff – ensure he/she is dead, snuffed it, defunct, kicked the bucket (et al – après the Dead Parrot sketch) and place in the prepared container, ensuring that manual handling is reduced through a staff member each handling a limb apiece; then....” Mmmmm – where’s that drinkie?

Be Safe! Jerry

“AN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND SPECIALISTS”

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