

Safety News For Golf Clubs



Stait V Basingstoke Golf Club

On 06/09/2016 Mr Simon Stait an experienced and long serving employee was asked by his course manager to use the remainder of the day to burn some wood at the existing bonfire location close to the maintenance facility.

Mr Stait proceeded to the usual location where he struggled to get the fire to start. He then went to the secured petrol storage point, took out a Jerry can of petrol and proceeded to pour petrol onto the failed bonfire, this act caused the fumes from the petrol to ignite, setting alight the arm on the clothing that Mr Stait was wearing.

From here Mr Stait was taken to hospital where his burns were treated and he was discharged that evening with painkillers.

Mr Stait proceeded with an action against Basingstoke Golf Club for damages of £100,000.

The case was heard at Winchester Crown Court in December 2020 and April 2021.

The court found that Basingstoke Golf Club were 80% liable for the Injuries with Stait himself being 20% liable.

Compensation was awarded of £70,849.00 and legal costs which the club's insurers paid.

The reasoning behind the judge's decision lies in the fact that the employer has a "high duty of care" and the judge found that the club "did not provide training to Mr Stait in relation to how to build a bonfire safely, did not undertake a written risk assessment of this task and did not state that the use of petrol was prohibited".



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What this means for limb (b) workers

If a risk assessment indicates that a limb (b) worker requires PPE to carry out their work activities, the employer must carry out a PPE suitability assessment and provide the PPE free of charge as they do for employees.

The employer is responsible for the maintenance, storage and replacement of any PPE they provide.

Workers are required to use the PPE properly following training and inform the employer if the PPE provided is lost or becomes defective.

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 Amended 2022

The PPE 1992 Regulations place a duty on the employer to provide PPE for employees where the risk cannot be controlled by other means and where a risk assessment identifies that PPE is the last means of protection for the employee from a hazard.

PPE Regulations 2022 extends this duty to limb (b) workers and came into force on 6 April 2022. Employers need to carefully consider whether the changes to UK law apply to them and their workforce and make the necessary preparations to comply.

Definitions

Limb (a) workers; Those with a contract of employment. This group are employees under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and are already in scope of PPER 1992

Limb (b) workers; Carry out casual or irregular work for one or more organisations. after 1 month of continuous service, receive holiday pay but not other employment rights such as the minimum period of statutory notice. only carry out work if they choose to.

Please note: These changes do not apply to those who have a 'self-employed' status.

Where PPE is required, employers must ensure their workers have sufficient information, instruction and training on the use of that PPE.

Seasonal Hazards

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The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations covers not only those substances that are used in the workplace, but any substance in the workplace that can affect the health of your employees, this includes substances that occur naturally, substances that are created by work activities and, biological agents.

Those substances can be seasonal and will include things like.

Solar Radiation.

If your employees are exposed to solar radiation as a result of work activities, you must have procedures in place to minimise the risks of exposure. You should also identify vulnerable employees including those of a fair complexion and undertake health surveillance looking for the early signs of skin cancer.

Legionella

Stored water will naturally rise in temperature in the summer, this could lead to an increase in Legionella activity where an organic food source is available. It is important that; storage tanks are well insulated and fully sealed;

Water in tanks is not allowed to sit still, water should be regularly drawn from them by continuous top up; You monitor water temperatures at the furthest and nearest cold tap on a plumbed spur checking for variance. Cold water should be running at a temperature lower than 20°C.

Oak Processionary Moth

The caterpillar of the Processionary Moth when nesting and gathering in processions is at a stage where irritant (urticating) hairs develop, these hairs pose the potential to cause rashes and respiratory problems in humans. It is necessary to identify any trees where they are present and keep staff and golfers away from those areas. The trees should be recorded via the tree alert page on the forestry research website. <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/tree-alert/>

Kitchen Heat *

The kitchen can create tremendous amounts of heat from the stove / oven ranges, grills and other cooking processes. The kitchen should be well ventilated providing a good fresh, clean air supply for the extract system. The extract system should be working efficiently with the designed draw from the fan to the outside of the building, it must not be blocked in any way by dirty or clogged filters. It is important kitchen staff have a cool rest area where they can get away from the heat and have plenty of liquids available to rehydrate.

*(not a CoSHH matter but one covered in Workplace HS&Welfare Regulations)

(Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020

If your work involves the use of plant protection products (PPPs), often referred to as pesticides, you must comply with the **Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020** and register your business.

You need to register if you use professional PPPs as part of your work or have professional PPPs applied by a third party as part of your work in, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or the amenity sector (for example parks or sports surfaces)

You must register by 22 June 2022. If you start using professional PPPs after 22 June 2022, you must register within 3 months of the time you begin.

Please note a pesticide does not include treatments such as fertilisers, wetting agents, soil conditioners, biological stimulants etc. All PPPs will have a MAPP no.

Register here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/professional-plant-protection-products-ppps->

Compliance and Safety Management System.

The Compliant Grounds CSMS continues to go from strength to strength recently attracting the following endorsements.

“it’s so simple to use. Everything is in the same place easy to cross reference information. Quick and simple to pull off reports for board. Cuts my time spent on a computer in half. Constantly being updated.” Lee Bishop, CM Burnham Beeches GC.

“Just finished ny H&S audit with Peninsula, They couldn't speak more highly of your software, well done” Gerry Bruen, CM Williamwood GC.

The CG CSMS has all the tools you need to help you manage your regulatory needs. It also includes budget tool and greenstaff time allocation diary. New in 2023 will be nutrient monitoring all at no additional cost.

Director of restaurant convicted after a safety guard removed.

Waltham Forest Council prosecuted a restaurant following a long investigation prompted by an incident in which life-changing injuries were caused.

Local EHO's visited the premises after being notified of the accident discovering an absence of any written risk assessments, training or other safety procedures. Officers found that the fixed guard to the mincing machine had been removed causing the injuries when a hand became trapped in the cutting mechanism. At Stratford Magistrates' Court, the director pleaded guilty to one count of failing to ensure the safety of employees and one count of failing to ensure dangerous machinery had the required safety measures in place.

“ This incident has caused life-changing injuries – and all because of failed health and safety obligations”.

As well as being fined, costs of £16,557 were awarded to the council.