



# THE BUILDING SAFETY GROUP NEWSLETTER





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## No effective design or planning to eliminate risks from dust at some UK construction sites, HSE campaign finds

Some UK construction sites have no effective design or planning to eliminate risks from dust and the hierarchy of controls is simply not considered at all, says the regulator.

A campaign by the [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#), has found some sites do not consider the use of pre-cut materials and put no control measures in place to minimise the risks, such as water suppression, on-tool extraction or the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

As part of the [Dust Kills Campaign](#) more than 1,000 inspections were carried out between May and July to look at what was being done to prevent or control the risks from construction dust.

### Many construction activities can cause diseases

HSE's Acting Head of Construction Division Mike Thomas said: "Regularly breathing in the dust generated by many construction activities can cause diseases like lung cancer, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and silicosis.

Every year we see construction workers die from these diseases caused or made worse by their work because the necessary precautions required to protect their long-term lung health have not been taken by employers and workers themselves.

The 1,000 plus inspections completed took place across a range of construction sites to check the action businesses are taking to ensure their workers' health is being protected. Where planning around the risks of dust and controls to prevent exposure are not even considered, it shows there is still plenty of room for improvement."

## No on-tool extraction

At some sites, inspectors found there was no on-tool extraction in place on high-powered cutting saws that generate silica and wood dust or poorly maintained extraction equipment such as hoses and units making it ineffective. There were instances of suitable RPE not being made available on site or sometimes it was available, but no one ensured it was used. On occasion, the health of workers was not being considered when sweeping up indoors, with no damping down to control the dust.

However, the inspectors also found good practices in how workers' exposure to dust is being managed and controlled at some construction sites. Some sites made use of motorised water suppression alongside face fit-tested FFP3 RPE to reduce exposure to silicosis and lung cancer-causing respirable crystalline silica (RCS).



At some sites they found air-fed hoods – or powered air respirators – being used when working with high-powered cutting saws during carpentry, to prevent exposure to asthma-causing wood dust. And some sites found details of HSE's campaign within company health, safety & environmental newsletters to raise awareness.

## HSE Evaluation

The HSE is now carrying out a full evaluation of the inspection data. The regulator reminded employers that the law requires them to prevent the ill health of their workers as far as reasonably practicable, including prevention or adequate control of workers' exposure to construction dust.

They said ideally elimination of the risk of exposure to dust for workers should be achieved by good design and planning.

Source: SHP

## BSG Support

To learn more about how to reduce the risks of dust on site, please take time to look at the following documents on the BSG Hub. Or view some of our Toolbox Talks on BSG's YouTube Channel;



[BSG YouTube](#)

- Silica Dust on Construction Sites
- BSG Byte – Asbestos on Construction Sites
- Asbestos - BSG Toolbox Talk
- Dust & Fumes Respiratory Hazards
- Silica Dust - BSG Toolbox Talk
- Lead, Lead Paint & Lead Dust

[Risk Assessment documents](#)  
([log in to the BSG Hub to view](#))

- 706 Exposure to Silica Dust.doc (hard copy)
- MS 19 Occupational Health Procedure 2021.doc
- Occupational Health - Silica Dust (RAMS software version)
- Occupational Health - Wood Dust (RAMS software version)
- Occupational Health - Construction Dust (RAMS software version)

[HSE Information: Dust](#)

- Using cut-off saws A guide to protecting your lungs
- Controlling construction dust with on-tool extraction
- Construction dust





# The full scope of the Building Safety Act

*A number of new regulations have now come into force under the Building Safety Act 2022, and they don't only affect high-risk buildings. Here are some of the key changes we've noted ...*

The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 covers a series of new reforms. However, while these reforms might seem more heavily weighted towards ensuring the safety of higher-risk buildings (HRBs), the new regime introduces fresh terminology, roles, responsibilities and other criteria that are important to understand for all projects that fall under building regulations.

## Roles and responsibilities of the dutyholder

One of the most important changes is the dutyholder regime detailed under part 2a of the Building Regulations. It is designed to regulate and hold to account, those who are responsible for planning and executing the construction of new buildings and, the renovation of existing ones.

Under the regulations, the dutyholder is defined as the client (the person who is responsible for commissioning the building work), the principal designer and the principal contractor. Where there is more than one designer or contractor on a project, there must be an agreement and declaration in writing as to which holds the role of 'principal'.

## Competence requirements for all dutyholders.

The regime comes with competence requirements for all dutyholders. They need the right skills, knowledge, and experience for the design and construction work they're responsible for.

# The full scope of the Building Safety Act ctd.

Additionally, they must restrict themselves only to work that falls within the scope of their competence. These competency requirements extend to all construction projects where building regulations apply.

## Dutyholders

Under the regime, dutyholders will also need to ensure that there are processes in place to plan, oversee and regularly inspect design and building work to ensure compliance with building regulations. They must also cooperate with each other in coordinating work and providing information to the other duty holders.

## Risk of fatal or severe injuries

What's more, dutyholders will be obligated to report to the Building Safety Regulator (BSR), any circumstances that may pose a risk of fatal or severe injuries.

## Whistle-blower guarantees

These disclosures come with whistle-blower guarantees, which protects those reporting concerns, shielding them from criminal prosecution. Neglecting this obligation could result in criminal charges.



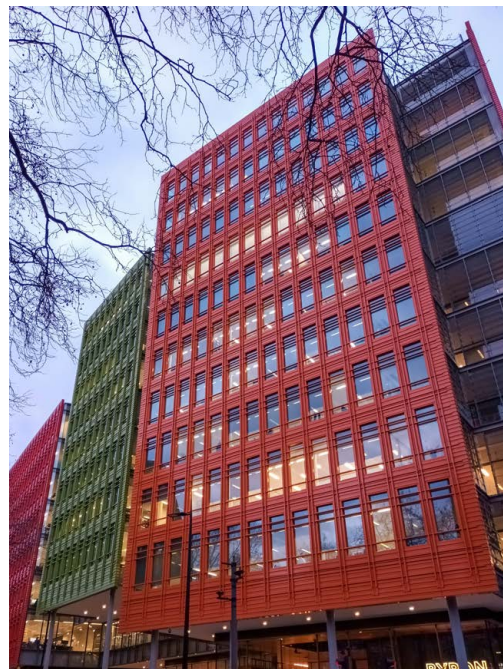
Health & Safety Helpline 0300 304 9070  
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enquiries@bsgltd.co.uk

## Higher Risk Buildings (HRBs) and Building Control

In addition to the above, an extra layer of legislation applies to the construction and renovation of higher-risk buildings (HRBs), which are currently defined as:

- Buildings at least 18 metres in height or with at least seven storeys; and
- contains at least two residential units.

For HRBs, the legislation obligates clients to keep a written record of the steps they have taken in consideration of the appointment of the principal designer and principal contractor. This includes looking at the history of past misconduct or whether they have received a serious sanction within the preceding five years to date of the appointment.



Furthermore, a series of 'gateways' have been introduced for HRB construction to strengthen regulatory oversight. Before any building work on an HRB commences, a building control approval application must be made to the overall authority, in this case, the BSR.

# The full scope of the Building Safety Act ctd.

Known as Gateway 2, key documentation must be provided to support the application, including a competency declaration and building regulations compliance statement.

## Changes to the design will require a change control notice

Once approved, any major changes to the design will require a change control notice made to the BSR.

For further information on the new gateways and rules, refer to the HSE's guide [Building Control: An overview of the new regime](#).

## How to prepare

While these are some of the more headline changes to the regulations, there is more to absorb. For example, the provision of information around fire safety and proposals on scheduling and timelines. The onus is therefore on all those involved to ensure they read and understand how the legislation might affect them.

It's worth remembering that many in the industry will already have best practice processes to meet compliance with the new legislation. However, now is a good time to review and update policies, procedures and training with the new regulations in mind, paying particular attention to limits of competence.

Source: SHP

### BSG Comment

Initially, the main impact of the **Building Safety Act 2022** and its associated regulations, will be felt by owners of high-rise residential buildings, hospitals, or care homes.

Works within other high-rise buildings, which are not considered 'high risk', will be affected by the **strengthening** of the **construction products regulatory regime**. This is expected to influence the **design** and **management** of a project.

Although other building projects will not be the central focus of the **Building Control Authority\***, who will be the regulator of the act, it is likely that these changes will be felt within **all** types of construction over the coming years.

\*From 1 October 2023, the Building Safety Regulator ("BSR") became the Building Control Authority for all higher-risk buildings.



**Andy Harper:**

Head of Technical and CDM Support  
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In the meantime, should any BSG member become involved with a high-rise project, whether designated high risk or not, then please contact us for specific advice.





# The Building Safety Group opens new office in Scotland

The Building Safety Group (BSG) has opened a new office in Scotland. The opening follows a recently agreed partnership between BSG and the Scottish Decorators' Federation (SDF).

BSG will be working from SDF's Stirling based premises to support members operating in Scotland, as well as grow its overall membership base throughout the region.

Stephen Bell, Managing Director for BSG, commented: "At a time when there is so much economic uncertainty, I am delighted with our partnership with SDF. The new office means we can strengthen our community ties in Scotland by continuing to support local construction businesses in the area and at the same time look for new opportunities to grow BSG."

Neil Rogers, Chief Executive for the Scottish Decorators' Federation is also pleased with the new working relationship. "We felt it was important that SDF looked to work closely with a recognised and reputable safety group with the resources to drive up health and safety standards for our members. I have no doubt that SDF will benefit greatly from the advice, expertise, and wealth of support available through BSG."

Located in Castlecraig, Stirling, the office will be run by BSG's Safety Adviser for Scotland, Scott Lynch, who will be available to advise members on how to best manage health and safety in construction. In addition, Scott will continue to provide site inspections for membership companies based in Scotland.

## CITB Training

The new office will also be used as a training facility for running CITB and other industry approved courses. The Building Safety Group trains over 10,000 operatives throughout the UK every year.

As well as being representative of BSG's long term plans for Scotland, the partnership is also part of a strategic national objective to connect with other membership organisations who share similar aspirations for the construction sector.

For more details about the office and the services provided please contact:



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# All fired up – but where do we go?

## *Exploring the fire safety legal framework and guidance*

The fire safety legal landscape has seen significant change in recent times, triggered by the fatal fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017.

### Public enquiry

Since then a phased Public Inquiry has been held, which has examined the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire. The Public Inquiry and Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review has put a spotlight on the suitability of the legal regime governing fire and building safety and since then there has been incremental legislative change.

### Scope of the Fire Safety Act 2021 – what duties are imposed?

The Fire Safety Act 2021 ("the Act") was the first major step change, which extended the scope of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ("FSO") to apply, in circumstances where a building contains two or more sets of domestic premises, to the building's structure, external walls (including cladding, windows, doors and anything attached to those walls such as balconies) and all flat entrance doors leading onto common parts.

### Risk Prioritisation

The Government has produced a Risk Prioritisation Tool and associated 'risk based-guidance' which is intended to assist a 'responsible person' with understanding the fire safety risk profile of a building, and in determination of this, implementing suitable control measures as mitigation.

This guidance can be used by a 'responsible person' to demonstrate compliance with the FSO and Act.

## Who is the Responsible Person?

This is a common question and can be a legal conundrum. Going back to basics, the definition of 'a responsible person' (which can be an individual or corporate entity) has been legally defined since the enactment of the FSO. It includes:

- In the case of a workplace, the employer; and / or
- The person who has 'control of premises' in connection of carrying out a business such as the owner, managing agent or residents' management company

Duties are placed on other persons, who by virtue of a contract or tenancy, are 'in control of premises', having an obligation to maintain or repair premises or ensuring the safety of premises. This captures risk assessors, fire system maintainers and facility management companies.

## Governance and fire safety management arrangements

It is trite law, that there can (and often is) more than one 'responsible person'. In complex commercial arrangements or for large multi-occupied premises, it is not often clear cut who the responsible person is – and in the absence of this clarity, it can cause issues in relation to governance and fire safety management arrangements.

## In accordance with legal duties

At the most basic level, a tenancy and/or commercial arrangement should clearly define roles and responsibilities, an understanding of what this means in practice and assurance activities to ensure duties are being fulfilled, competently and in accordance with legal duties.

## What is the scope of The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022?

On 23 January 2023, the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations") came into force in England only. The Regulations apply to multi-occupied residential premises with common parts which are used in the event of emergency evacuation including:

- Blocks of residential flats for use by the public, regardless of whether purpose built or converted and the type of agreement i.e. lease or rental
- Student accommodation
- Sheltered housing
- Mixed use buildings such as residential premises, above commercial

As in the case of the Act, the Regulations apply to external walls and flat entrance doors. They also extend to common parts, such as corridors and stairways on evacuation routes, walls and floors that separate domestic premises and plant rooms and other non-domestic common areas, such as gyms and offices. Individual flats are exempt except where there are linked fire safety systems that are installed throughout the building as in the case of sprinklers, smoke detectors and communal fire alarm.

## What do I need to do under the Regulations?

The responsible person must provide easy to understand information to residents i.e.

- the evacuation strategy
- how to report a fire to emergency services
- relevant information about fire doors (i.e. instructions to keep shut when not in use, not to tamper with them and reporting of faults)

This information must be displayed in a prominent part of the building, provided to occupants as soon as they move in, refreshed annually and updated information shared where there have been material changes to the content.

## Are there any additional duties for buildings over 11m in height?

The extent of the legal duties ultimately depends on the height of a building and there are additional requirements beyond providing information to residents.

For buildings over 11m in height (typically over 5 storeys), responsible persons must undertake annual inspections of individual flat entrance doors and quarterly inspections on communal fire doors to check the condition and efficiency of fire doors and associated safety features such as self-closing devices.

## What is the definition of high rise residential buildings?

According to the Regulations, high risk (which are by definition higher risk) residential buildings means a building containing two or more sets of domestic premises that is at least:

- 18 metres above ground (calculated from ground level to the height of the building, excluding the top storey that contains only plant and machinery); or
- has at least 7 storeys. When calculating the storeys, any storey below ground level and mezzanine floor that has a floor space of less than 50% is discounted

## What are the duties in respect of high rise residential buildings?

In addition to the other requirements mentioned in this briefing, in respect of high rise residential buildings, responsible persons must also ensure the following:

- Install in a prominent position and maintain (at least annually) a secure information box, which includes the name, address and contact details of the responsible person or any other person who is permitted to access the building on behalf of the responsible person, and a copy of the floor plans and building plan.
- Document information about the design of the external building (including the risk of design and materials used when constructed) and any other pertinent information that may be relevant when responding to an emergency incident (such as any known defects in the construction). This information must be provided to the local fire and rescue service, in electronic form.
- Prepare a building plan for each floor, which must identify location(s) of all lifts (including any designed for use by firefighters or for evacuation) and essential fire-fighting equipment such as rising mains, smoke control systems and fire suppression systems. This must be provided to the local fire and rescue service, in electronic form.
- Prepare a single-one page building plan, identifying (amongst other requirements) the building's use, dimensions, number of storeys, access points and inlets for both dry and wet rising mains.

- Undertake monthly routine checks on lifts and essential fire-fighting equipment, such as fire detection and alarm systems, evacuation alert systems and automatic door release mechanisms. The purpose is to ensure that such equipment is in efficient working order and in good repair. Any faults identified, that continue beyond 24 hours, must be reported to the local fire and rescue service and again when a repair has been undertaken.
- Ensure that the building contains suitable signage on each landing, which identifies the flat and floor numbers. Such signage must be visible in the event of fire, in particular low level lighting and smoky conditions.



## What action can be taken for non-compliance?

The local fire and rescue service is the relevant regulator for the FSO, the Act and the Regulations. They have statutory powers to serve enforcement notices (requiring the responsible person to take steps to comply with the law) or prohibition notice (preventing the use of whole or part of premises).

## Criminal proceedings?

The regulator can bring criminal proceedings, where a breach of law has been identified, where an unlimited fine can be levied (and in the case of an individual, an unlimited fine, and/or a custodial sentence for up to 2 years).

## So what now?

The following top tips will assist a responsible person with demonstrating compliance:

- Review and update fire risk assessments as is necessary, ensuring that all requirements are captured.
- Cooperation and Coordination: where there is one or more responsible persons to which the FSO, Act and Regulations apply, a co-operated and co-ordinated approach to fire risk management must be applied. Roles and responsibilities must be clearly defined and followed. Whilst there is no requirement to document such arrangements, this should be encouraged to avoid ambiguity. Ongoing assurance of compliance with respective duties will provide an additional layer of reassurance.
- Appoint a competent person to assist with compliance. A responsible person need not appoint consultants or experts, and can rely on internal resource, provided that the nominated employee has sufficient training, competence and time. Where external contractors are appointed, the responsible persons must undertake assurance of the qualifications, skills, experience and competence to undertake the role (i.e. as in the case of risk assessors) on appointment and throughout the contract, at necessary intervals to ensure that delegated duties are being carried out.
- Record keeping is key – including the date and outcome of fire door inspections, date of residents' briefings, fire risk assessments prepared and updated and any actions arising from those etc.

- Work with and maintain a good relationship with occupiers, to highlight the importance of the requirements under the Regulations and that their active engagement is necessary, particularly where annual access is required to carry out checks on individual flat entrance doors. Guidance issued by the Government advises that all new agreements, such as leases, should include a right to access for the purpose of undertaking checks to maintain compliance with the Regulations.
- Engage with the local fire and rescue service to provide necessary information. An invitation to undertake a familiarisation tour of the building will enhance the emergency evacuation arrangements.

Source: SHP, Eversheds Sutherland

## Electricity breaches up 12% on construction sites



The Building Safety Group (BSG) has reported a 12% increase in the number of electricity breaches occurring on construction sites. The report was based on 30,000 site inspections conducted by BSG, which compared 2021 with 2022.

The most widespread types of infringement included damaged and trailing cables as well as the temporary position of impermanent supplies around the site. Damaged wire sheathing or exposed conductors were also common violations recorded by BSG advisers, as well as a lack of electrical installation certificates for temporary sites.

## Shocks from faulty equipment may lead to falls

About 1000 accidents at work involving electric shock or burns are reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) annually. Around 30 of these are fatal. Even non-fatal shocks can cause severe and permanent injury. Shocks from faulty equipment may lead to falls from ladders, scaffolds, or other work platforms. Those using electricity may not be the only ones at risk: poor electrical installations and faulty electrical appliances can lead to fires which may also cause death or injury to others.

Factors that often contribute to construction sites being at high electrical risk are:

- Work usually takes place in and around buildings and in a variety of weather conditions
- Electrical supply is often connected by extension leads, electrical portable outlet devices (EPODs), construction wiring and construction switchboards, increasing the risk of mechanical damage to cables and equipment
- Breaches of exclusion zones around overhead and underground powerlines
- Work sites are busy, and the workforce is constantly changing

BSG Safety Adviser for Scotland, Scott Lynch, commented: "Working with electricity in any environment can be highly dangerous but particularly so on a construction site where the hazards have the potential to be on a much bigger scale". Scott added "It's often a lack of awareness that causes the most damage so it's essential that anyone required to work on a construction site understands the risks and knows how to act to avoid themselves, or anyone else, coming to harm because of electricity. Most accidents can be avoided by careful planning and straightforward precautions."

For advice on how to best manage electricity safely on site please contact BSG Safety Adviser Scott Lynch 07779 433 912 or call BSG's Technical Support Manager, Andy Harper 0300 304 9070.

## BSG signs Armed Forces Covenant



The Building Safety Group (BSG) has signed the Armed Forces Covenant following its pledge to support those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces. The organisation is also open to employing reservists, veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses/partners.

Following its commitment, BSG has been awarded 'Bronze' status by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) through its Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)\*.

BSG's Board of Directors signed the agreement as a way of demonstrating the group's promise to be a 'forces friendly' organisation, a commitment which is now embedded into company's recruitment and selection processes.

Managing Director for BSG, Stephen Bell, commented: "BSG has a proud record of supporting people who have served in the Armed Forces. Many of those we employ have been able to demonstrate their transferable skills by working as highly qualified Safety Advisers and Trainers here at 'The Building Safety Group'" Stephen added: "So we are of course very pleased for our commitment to be recognised by the Ministry of Defence."

Emily Kadoch, Employer Engagement Director at the MOD also commented: "Reservists and veterans bring a wide variety of interchangeable attributes and qualities to the civilian workplace, which have been developed throughout their career. BSG clearly appreciate this, which is why they employ and continue to employ those who have served in the Armed Forces community. We are very glad that BSG has agreed to join the scheme and we look forward to working with them."

BSG's 'Bronze Employer Recognition Scheme Award' will be presented later this year by veterans who have served in the Armed Forces and have also previously worked for the safety group.





## Stop slips with our top tips

*September was 'Slipember', a month-long campaign to raise awareness around slip safety.*

Below are some top tips for each of the six **CHIMES**, that you can use to reduce slip risk.

### Contamination

- Conduct a comprehensive building audit to assess different zones and their respective levels of contamination, enabling you to create tailored cleaning plans.
- Implement preventative measures such as strategically placed drip trays and umbrella bags to reduce floor contamination from the start.
- Evaluate your floor's threshold for contamination to accurately gauge the level of risk. The viscosity of contaminants and the roughness of floors are the key parameters.

### Heel

- Make it a point to understand the slip-resistance level of your current footwear; the material and design of the sole are pivotal.
- Regularly inspect your footwear for signs of wear and tear. Update them before the sole becomes excessively smooth and, consequently, slippery.
- Ensure that staff consistently wear the slip-resistant shoes provided. Zero in on aspects like comfort and aesthetic appeal to encourage usage.

### Individual

- Know your building's users well. If they are predominantly older, the likelihood of slips and more severe injuries substantially increases.
- Carefully assess the activities occupants are engaged in; complex actions like rushing, carrying, or twisting heighten the risk of slipping – can these be managed out?
- If you find the need to use wet floor signs beyond a) pre-planned cleaning times or b) whilst temporarily dealing with a spillage, this is a red flag indicating unresolved slip hazards.



# Stop slips with our top tips ctd.

## Maintenance

- Take time to revisit your building's original design intentions. Assess if any modifications or usage changes have introduced unforeseen slip risks.
- Carry out a thorough floor audit to identify areas of wear and tear, particularly spots that have grown smoother, thus elevating the risk of slips.
- Your floors are being cleaned, but are they being cleaned effectively? Grab a white paper towel, spray some water on the floor, then rub the towel into it. If it doesn't come up pristinely clean, you may have a cleanliness therefore slip issue.

## Environment

- Conduct a user-centric walkthrough of your building to spot potential distractions that could contribute to slips and falls.
- Download the Angle Pro app to meticulously measure floor angles, revealing any subtle inclines, ramps, or slopes that might be easily overlooked.
- Utilise the Measure app to accurately gauge the depth of entrance matting, a crucial element in preventing slips at entry points. For a peak traffic flow of 400 people per hour, you should have 6-7 metres of matting. Most buildings have under 1 metre...

## Surface

- Your floors may not be as slip safe as you assume. Either, they were anti-slip but have changed over time.
- Or, they were anti-slip but are no longer due to being dirty.
- Or, perhaps they never were anti-slip to start with (just because a floor has a texture doesn't mean its actually safe when wet). Get a slip test to scientifically measure your floor safety.



Source: Christian Harris, SHP



# Legislation Update

## Changes to wood waste recycling regulations

Changes to the classification of ten waste wood items came into effect on 1 September 2023 in the UK. The new classification of these products as hazardous and potentially hazardous waste will affect both producers of waste wood (businesses) and recyclers.

The Environment Agency withdrew Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) 250 on 1 September 2023. This means that a small number (10) of potentially hazardous “amber” waste wood items from pre-2007 buildings can no longer be processed as non-hazardous, unless sent off for a simple test to show they are not. The 10 items from pre-2007 buildings that now classify as hazardous are;

- barge boards
- external fascia
- soffit boards
- external joinery
- external doors
- roof timber
- tiling cladding
- tiling battens
- timber frames
- timber joist

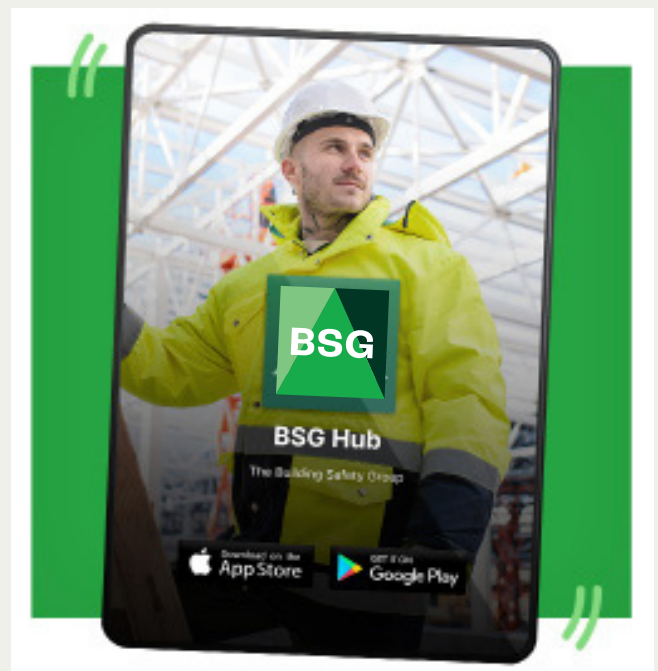
Source: Barbour Legislation Update Oct 23

# BSG Hub

## Health & Safety at your finger tips

Over 2500 people login to the BSG Hub for;

- Access to 250+ templates, policies & documents
- Call BSG’s health & safety technical support line
- View 100+ guidance videos & tool box talks



To login or register for the BSG Hub go to;

[hub.bsgonlineservices.co.uk/login.phtml](https://hub.bsgonlineservices.co.uk/login.phtml)

or scan the code





BSG Member Case study

## Intium Construction: A safe pair of hands

*BSG member, Intium Construction, talks about its commitment to Health & Safety with support from the Building Safety Group (published in Construction News).*

In addition to being a quality-led company, **Intium Construction** has also always been committed to providing high standards of health and safety. This approach was recently underlined further when one of its employees, Mick Bull, was named Site Manager of the Year (Midlands) at the prestigious BSG Health & Safety Awards 2023.

In addition to being a quality-led company, **Intium Construction** has also always been committed to providing high standards of health and safety. This approach was recently underlined further when one of its employees, Mick Bull, was named Site Manager of the Year (Midlands) at the prestigious BSG Health & Safety Awards 2023.

Such an achievement doesn't come about by accident and is instead indicative of the importance Intium Construction places on health and safety.

### Health and Safety is the priority

"We're very conscious about operating in the safest manner possible, as most contractors are in this day and age," adds Mr Slaney. "Health and safety is the priority at all times and we are independently monitored by BSG to ensure we're on the right track. As Managing Director, I receive a copy of the audit scores every three weeks. If there's any issue at all, I personally take responsibility in ensuring that it is resolved quickly.

What's more, we're very strong on training and ensuring that all our staff have the necessary PPE they need. I feel it's important that we empower our staff to make decisions on safety for themselves, as it's vital that they feel that level of responsibility rather than being mollycoddled.



"This philosophy is obviously working, as demonstrated by the **BSG Award** and Intium Construction's strong health and safety record. What is also working for the company is the approach it's been taking when delivering projects for its clients, as it has recently enjoyed a number of years of excellent growth.

"The Covid pandemic was a difficult time for everybody, but we were able to come out the other side relatively unscathed and stronger for the experience," outlines Mr Slaney. "We were very fortunate in that we had a number of projects onsite, so we had some significant turnover at the time to play with. Having come through the other side, 2021 and 2022 have proven to be two of our most profitable years ever. In fact, we doubled turnover in this period to its current level of £13m. 2023 is shaping up to be another really good year for us, so the outlook is positive going forward.

## Challenging climate

"We're able to be a bit more selective in terms of the schemes we're carrying out, with a heavy emphasis on commercial and industrial projects. Warehousing and logistics units have become our bread and butter in the past two years, and we've carved out a really strong niche in this area that we're more than comfortable with.

The experience we've built in this sector has set us in really good stead. That said, we are maintaining an interest in other markets too, such as residential, although the climate in this sector is definitely more challenging at the moment."

In terms of specific commercial and industrial projects Intium Construction has carried out recently, these include the completion of £6m headquarters for Browns Distribution in Stoke-on-Trent and a speculative industrial unit in Whitchurch. It is currently onsite developing a £3.2m battery facility for GivEnergy, also in Stoke-on-Trent, and building a storage warehouse and offices in Cheadle as part of a £2.6m development.

## Electrical vehicles

"Away from the industrial sector, Intium Construction has just been appointed by a Nottingham developer to work on a service station scheme on the A1(M) valued at £3.3m. This will include a Costa Coffee, a Wendy's Drive-Thru and various retail units. Within the residential sector, meanwhile, the company is just about to complete a £4m housing scheme in Haslington, Crewe.

"We've got a healthy order book, so we just want to continue on the same upward trajectory," says Mr Slaney. "We're not precious about turnover, as making a profit is much more important. We'd certainly never buy work just for the sake of it. We're also looking to do our bit from an environmental point of view too. In the last couple of years we have replaced our company cars with a fleet of electric vehicles and have installed charging points at our offices."

It's clear that Intium Construction is continuing to travel in the right direction, not only from a sustainable and commercial perspective, but also in terms of health and safety too.

Source: Construction News



## COURT CASES

### Company and director fined for putting workers at welding fume risk

*A West Midlands engineering company and its managing director have been fined for failing to protect their workers from welding fume.*

Associated Metalmasters Limited and Managing Director Darren Spittle were prosecuted by the [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) following an inspection of the company's former site at Woodside Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road, Dudley, in October 2021. HSE inspectors found the company had failed to put in place appropriate precautions to control the exposure of mild steel welding fume from metal inert gas (MIG) welding taking place at the site.

A subsequent investigation found Associated Metalmasters Limited had initially complied with two Improvement Notices served by the workplace regulator in 2016 and 2019. The notices required the company to make improvements to its MIG welding process.

However, the company failed to sustain its compliance with the notices meaning there was an inadequate control of exposure to welding fume.

Darren Spittle, Managing Director at the company, was in control of the MIG welding process and was aware of the Improvement Notices.

HSE said that the company could have sustained compliance with the notices by ensuring that industry standard controls for the welding were provided and maintained at the site. These controls would have likely included a local exhaust ventilation (LEV) and respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

Associated Metalmasters Limited pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 7(1) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. The company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £3,896.30 in costs at Dudley Magistrates' Court on 13 September 2023. Spittle, of Bright Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge, , pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37(1) of the [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#). He was fined £2,000 at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court..

HSE Inspector Heather Campbell said: "There are clear dangers from welding fume – remaining compliant with the law is not something that can tail off over time. This case shows prosecution will be considered if that happens."

Source: HSE

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