

Machinery Safety 1 – Risk Management in Manufacturing

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Key Points:

- The manufacturing sector represents around 9% of the GB workforce - some 3 million people.
- It covers a diverse range of industry, eg motor vehicle repair, woodworking, metal fabrication, shipbuilding, aerospace - some large employers but mostly SMEs.
- 20% of all workplace fatalities occur within manufacturing and, on average, 27 workers are killed each year. There were 600,000 non-fatal injuries in GB in 2016/17 - 44,000 of which resulted from contact with moving machinery.
- The sector continues to be a priority for HSE – there is much room for improvement.
- Improvement is required in management systems and Risk Assessment (RA). RAs are sometimes too narrow in approach and often produced by someone not acquainted with the actual process rather than someone who is trained and competent.
- The RA should be a dynamic process, not one-time-only, and suitable and sufficient. It should consider the task, location, how the job is actually done, risk control/guarding and cover setting, operation, maintenance and cleaning.
- The new sentencing guidelines will be applied by the courts to assess culpability of those failing in their duty to devise and implement effective systems to control risk and comply with the law – culpability is graded from Very High (deliberate breach of the law) to Low (minor failing/isolated incident).
- Two case studies highlight the need to prevent access to dangerous and moving parts where practicable.