

**Helping you see the
bigger picture**EHSsential: environmental,
health and safety news

EHSsential will keep you up to date on matters such as key court decisions, legislative changes or proposals along with providing insight and guidance on key environmental, health and safety matters in the UK. We hope you find our e-briefing useful and informative.

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**Not so good vibrations**

A fine of £500,000 has been imposed in a recent case of hand arm vibration syndrome. This follows fines of £280,000 in 2016 and £120,000 in 2017. These cases serve as a stark reminder to all duty holders to revisit the measures in place to control the risks from the use of vibrating equipment.

**Brexit - Issues for the supply chain**

To date, much Brexit related reporting and news has focused on the impact on UK based businesses. Brexit is not however, merely a UK issue. Any business based outside the UK with a supply chain involving the UK will be impacted. A key concern is that many businesses will not even be aware that one, or more, of their supply chains involve the UK.

**Time to tune in to the risks**

A landmark ruling of the High Court has found that The Royal Opera House breached its health and safety duties, resulting in a viola player suffering acoustic shock during a rehearsal. Although this case was a civil action for damages, and indeed the first to compensate for acoustic shock, it looked at the duty on employers under The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.

**Sharing is caring**

When the final Sentencing Council Guideline on Sentencing Health and Safety Offences ('the Guideline') was published on 3 November 2015, one of the 'highlights for practitioners was the above provision. At first glance, it appears to allow the Courts to pierce the corporate veil and go beyond the corporate entity to be sentenced when assessing the relevant size of the offender to be punished.

**Work place fatalities**

On 4 July 2018, the HSE published its annual workplace fatality figures which show that there has been a 6.6% increase in the number of workers being fatally injured at work. In actual numbers, this means that 144 individuals were recorded as having died as a result of a workplace incident in the year between April 2017 and March 2018, compared to 135 the previous year.

**Medium Combustion Plant Directive**

We consider the impact of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive and the new requirements on such plants, including generators. This is relevant to anyone operating particular combustion plants including generators and affects a whole range of sectors.

**Looking after those on the road**

The latest statistics released by the Health and Safety Executive highlight that the 'Transportation and Storage Sector' have a rate of fatal injury around 1.5 to 2 times the average rate across all industries. This is worrying news, particularly in light of a recent warning from Unite around the ageing workforce driving heavy goods vehicles around the country.

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