

INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS TO DATE		
<i>Incident</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
Fall from platform	Fatality	1997
Gas exposure	Hospitalisation	1998
Fall through fragile roof	Near miss Hospital treatment	2000
Scaffold collapse	Near miss Equipment damaged	2000
CO exposure at steel works	Near miss	2000
Steam release by sampling platform	Near miss	2000
Fall from ladder	Hospitalisation	2000
Fall through platform	Fatality	2000
CO exposure	Near miss	2001
Handrail collapse	Near miss	2001



Scafftag Categories	
Very light duty	to 0.75 kN/m ² (75kg/m ²)
General purpose	to 2.0 kN/m ² (202kg/m ²)
Heavy duty	to 2.5 kN/m ² (252kg/m ²)
Special purposes	must state safe kN/m ²

HEALTH & SAFETY *BULLETIN*

Source Testing Association

Source Testing Association

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The Health & Safety Bulletin is a means of disseminating important issues relating health and safety of professionals involved in air emission monitoring and allied fields.

To contribute to this publication please e-mail H&S@s-t-a.org with your suggestions or article

STA Guidance Notes are available from the publication page on the web site.

Visit WWW.S-T-A.org



Health and Safety Briefing

The STA is subscribing to this fortnightly newsletter produced by Croner.CCH Group Ltd. In each newsletter we will publish the contents list of each newsletter that is on file. If you would like copy of any particular issue please contact Samantha.

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HS1108-02	227	Revised proposals for asbestos management Case law: Level of fines (part 1) Assessing risks for young workers (part 1)



**ARE YOU USING USING
KNOTS, WHEN LIFTING
EQUIPMENT?**

**DO YOU KNOW THE
DANGERS?**

Read on!!!!!!!

If you use knots do you now what knot to use and when to use it.

Incidents happen throughout our industry where inappropriate fastening of ropes to equipment can cause damage to equipment and personnel.

One such case was reported to us recently.

"An emissions sampling team working for NCAS was preparing to commence sampling on an elevated platform, this involved lifting a set of impingers to the work platform using a suitable rope and karabiner clasp. As the test engineer was about to pull the equipment onto the platform, the impinger bucket detached from the rope/clasp and fell to the ground - approx. 20ft. No person was injured and the impingers contained only water."

The STA Health & Safety Committee recommend the use of slings and correct lifting system to lift equipment rather than ropes and general knots. Many members use the STA safe lifting system and some of our more responsible process operators provide on-site lifting systems.

Do you know the risk involved if a piece of equipment falls from any height, apart from the obvious equipment damage, glass impingers are not very good at bouncing. Version 5 of the Hazards, Risk and Risk Control in Stack Testing Operations, section 4 highlights the risks and control measures.

All equipment used for lifting is covered by the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) These cover, amongst other things, periodic checking of equipment, record keeping and visual checks before use. Consult STA Health Safety Guidance Note HSGN0008 for further guidance available from the STA web site www-S-T-A.org

INSURANCE –WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Some may be aware of the concerns the STA has in the past if members have had adequate insurance for working at heights. Costs that have been quoted in the past have been quite substantial and there is also the risk that some members may not have been covered for working at heights under their normal business policy.

Due to this we have had discussion with various organisations in regard to providing cover for our members who may require it and have now set up a scheme with an insurance broker which we feel will cover most of the requirements at a very reasonable costs starting from £400.00 per annum for single operator, professional indemnity insurance is also available at reasonable cost.

INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOURCE TESTING ASSOCIATION

These insurance contracts are designed for:-

1. Members carrying out work involving environmental monitoring
2. For sole traders, partnerships and small limited companies with up to 5 manual operatives
3. Cover is subject to satisfactory proposal form

Policies include;

Public Liability Section

Indemnity in respect of your legal liability to pay damages and claimants costs to third parties sustaining bodily injury or for loss or damage to third party property arising from the conduct of business.

Limit of indemnity – See rating schedule

Employers Liability Section

Indemnity in respect of legal liability to pay damages and claimants costs to employees in respect of bodily injury or disease sustained and arising out of and in the course of their employment in the business.

Limit of indemnity - £10 million any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

Cover Includes

- Indemnity to principals
- Contractual liability
- Court attendance
- Defective Premises Act
- Employees personal effects
- Legal expenses arising from Health & Safety Legislation
- Wide definition of bodily injury
- Motor contingent liability
- Rented premises
- Wide definition of employee
- Tool of trade risks
- Liability of sub-contractors
- Visitors personal effects
- Unsatisfied court judgements
- Cross liabilities
- Consumer Protection Act & Food Safety Act
- Car park and cloakroom liability

NO HEIGHT OR DEPTH RESTRICTIONS

For more details and proposal forms contact;

Geoff Tindale
Lindo & Tinadle
20 Yarm Road
Stockton on Tees
TS18 3NA
Tel 01642 607498 Fax 01642 616905

Health surveillance

Health surveillance is a collective term for a variety of procedures which can be employed to detect signs of disease or illness at an early stage. Work-related ill health should, of course, be prevented by controlling the risks. However; it is often necessary to use health surveillance to check that the controls in place are working.

Recruitment

Health surveillance during recruitment is sometimes called pre-employment or pre-placement health assessment and can take a number of forms. Pre-employment screening should be used to detect pre-existing health conditions which, whilst not making the person unfit for work, would require the employer to take additional precautions to prevent further illness.

Self awareness

Self checks should be used with some caution because individuals may overlook signs or not want to report a condition which they feel may affect their work prospects. Nevertheless, it is important that workers know what the health risks are and what symptoms they should look for. Employees must also know who to report concerns to and there must be a good follow up procedure in place so that symptoms can be investigated and remedial actions, either medical or workplace, put into effect.

Health checks

Where the disease outcome is readily recognisable, health checks can be carried out by a responsible person. This lends itself best to skin conditions, such as chrome ulcer or dermatitis. If materials are handled which only rarely cause dermatitis, then employees should be given instruction to check their own skin condition and to report any changes. However, if materials which are known to cause dermatitis are regularly handled, then the responsible person should visually check the workers' hands and other exposed skin at least weekly. Suspicious symptoms should be referred to the company occupational health advisor and the results should always be recorded.

Health assessment

Health assessments are undertaken by someone who is suitably qualified, ideally someone who has specialised in occupational health nursing. The

examination consists of recording health and occupational history, and making enquiries about symptoms. If relevant to the type of exposure, the examination can also involve physiological measurement, such as lung function, hearing, visual acuity or urine tests.

Medical examination

Sometimes the nature of the hazard requires health surveillance by means of a more detailed clinical examination. This is undertaken by a medical practitioner who should be competent in occupational medicine. Some regulations specifically require medical examinations to be undertaken by an HSE Employment Medical Advisor or by an 'appointed doctor'.



Using health surveillance

Health surveillance should be used where: exposure to a hazardous substance is related to an identifiable disease or adverse health effect. There is a reasonable likelihood that the disease or effect could be related to the exposure there is a reasonable likelihood that the disease or effect may occur under the particular conditions of work there are valid techniques for the detection of the disease or effect. The risk assessment carried out under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR) should determine whether any regulations, e.g. COSHH, specifies the need for health surveillance. If there is no specific requirement, then MHSWR requires consideration of whether surveillance is likely to further the health of the employee.

MHSWR applies to all work environments and all work-related hazards, not just chemical or biological substances. Therefore, it may be necessary to consider health surveillance for a variety of work-related ill health, eg

musculoskeletal disorders, stress-related disorders, or hearing loss.

Record keeping

Certain regulations legally require employers to keep records of health surveillance, e.g. COSHH. Records of health surveillance results should always be kept, whether or not there is a legal obligation to do so. A full record of employees, exposures and work conditions and the presence of any related disease may be of value in making decisions about retirement on medical grounds or about how to respond to claims for damages.

Confidentiality

The presence or absence of specific symptoms, the pre-employment health questionnaire, or other clinical details taken by a doctor or nurse form part of the individual's medical records and should be kept confidential by the health professional. They can only be made available to the employer with the written informed consent of the employee to whom they relate. The Access to Health Records Act 1990 gives individuals the right to apply to see their health records and to comment and put right any inaccuracies.

Consent

An employee who withholds consent for legally required health surveillance places the employer in breach of a statutory duty. However, in doing so the employee would also be in breach of s. 7 of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974, which requires employees to participate fully with the employer in carrying out their legal obligations. It is advisable to make participation in health surveillance a contractual condition of employment, and to include the specific arrangements for health surveillance in the health and safety policy. When carrying out a health surveillance programme, employees should be fully informed and want to participate because they see it as being in their own interests.

Transport of gas cylinders



Gas cylinders are safe only if used correctly and transported safely. The Health & Safety committee are being informed on a regular basis regarding transport of cylinders in unsafe conditions. We like to inform members to;

- ☞ **NEVER** transport cylinders with regulators on;
- ☞ **NEVER** transport cylinders without first securing them inside the vehicle;
- ☞ **NEVER** transport cylinders in vehicles that do not have the correct markings;
- ☞ **NEVER** transport cylinders without the correct trim cards and documentation.

The consequences for the company and staff if an accident happens are very severe.

Practical advice

Ideally you should carry cylinders securely fastened in an open vehicle. However, if this is not possible, then the following advice should be used.

1. If carrying cylinders in a closed vehicle, then they should be in a separate compartment to the driver and passengers- if possible,; this compartment should be well ventilated.
2. Ensure the cylinder valve is tightly closed and prevent excessive movement of the cylinder(s)
3. If valve outlet caps/plugs are provided, these should be tightly fitted whilst in transit.
4. Do not transport cylinders with pressure regulators attached.
5. Do not smoke in the vehicle.
6. Minimise the quantity of gas carried. Only transport small cylinders (10 litre water capacity or less) if possible.
7. The driver of the vehicle should be

trained in the properties of the gases carried. They should also have read and be aware of the Safety Data Sheets for the mixture(s) carried.

8. Do not transport cylinders that are fitted with pressure relief devices e.g. CO₂ cylinders, acetylene cylinders in closed vehicles.

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996 requires you to carry a Consignor's Declaration if you are transporting cylinders containing the following mixture types:

Toxic gas in cylinders greater than 1 litre water capacity.

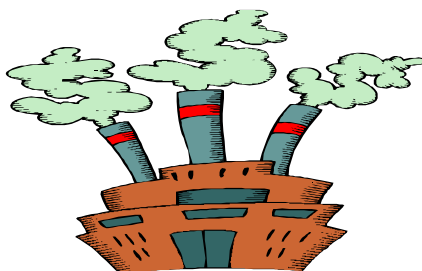
Flammable gas in cylinders greater than 10 litre water capacity.

Non flammable, non-toxic gases in cylinders larger than 25 litre water capacity.

If you are transporting large numbers of these mixture types, additional requirements of The Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996 may need to be met.

Various guidance notes are available on the STA web site along with downloadable trim cards.

COSHH Assessment and positive pressure stacks



Do you know if the stack is under vacuum or pressure?

Do you know the make up of the flue gas?

If there is a process disturbance are any other substances going to be released?

These are just a few questions that must be asked before sampling takes place. If you don't understand the hazards how can you define the risk.

The H&S committee has produced a guidance note HSGN012, download from the web site, which we recommend is sent or presented to your clients so that they and you understand the hazards and risks that may be present before, during and after a sampling.

Vacancies

Vacancies on the STA's Health and Safety Task Group

We are looking for additional members to join the task group. If you would like to be involved in this very important area of our industries market and are able to attend four meetings per year,

Please contact
Dave Curtis for further information.
01462 457535



Weather Forecast

Summer is nearly here and we could get sun this year!

Remember the hazards of **Sunburn and the Risk of Skin Cancer.**

We can recommend a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 and total sun block on sensitive area i.e nose, cheeks.

Don't forget in hot weather (if we get it) and also working in hot environment to **drink plenty** and maybe keep sachets or cans of **isotonic drinks** at hand.

It will probably rain but some lucky stack testers may get to go to sunnier climes to carry out monitoring so don't forget to add sun creams and isotonic drink sachets to your safety kits.

In the NEXT ISSUE.....



Permits to work.



MCERTS, site specific protocols and safety.







Accident reporting and incident forms.

STA Health & Safety Guidance Notes

*The complete list and download facility are available on the STA web site
or contact Samantha for paper copies*

Below is the third in the serialisation of an old document originally supplied by Air Products.

<p>Did you know? A cylinder fall once cost £75,000. In a rubber factory, a propane cylinder supplying air heaters for ovens while being lit. The rubber tube came away and the escaping gas ignited. The resulting fire caused £75,000 worth of damage. (Fire Protection Assoc. Journal)</p>	<p>Always store cylinders in the vertical position, and ensure that they are properly secured.</p> 	<p>Never remove or obscure official labelling on a gas cylinder, and always check the identity of a gas before using it.</p> 
<p>The right way</p> 	<p>Did you know? Every year Air Products spend thousands of pounds employ teams of specialist engineers to produce the safest and most robust valves – it's unlikely that you'll be able to improve on them without risk.</p>	<p>Did you know? A label on the cylinder shoulder gives the name and formula of the gas and indicates the main hazards associated with it. Always read it!</p>
<p>Never attempt to repair or modify cylinder valves or safety relief devices.</p> 	<p>The right way</p> 	<p>The right way</p> 



**Health & Safety Booklet
NOW THE INDUSTRY
STANDARD**

The little **YELLOW** book in its expanded form is to become the industry standard and referred to in the new EA guidance documents The booklet is available free to all. *Have you got your copy yet?*

Do you give them out to **YOUR** clients?

Contact Samantha for copies, there is no limit to the amount we can send out.



HAVE YOU BEEN ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT HEIGHTS COURSE ?

If not contact Samantha telephone 01462 457535 for the next available dates, cost is only £110.00 per delegate.

Health & Safety CREDIT CARDS

Have you got your card yet?

Contact Samantha for the *free* cards and issue them to all involved in stack testing within your organisation.