



14 October 2011



Changes to RIDDOR

HOW DO I REPORT AN ACCIDENT?

RIDDOR isn't a new requirement, but the way in which we report has now changed. This came into effect from September 12th 2011. All accident after this time must be reported online [here](#).

All reportable work-related incidents under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 should be made online through 7 online reporting forms to make the statutory reporting process quick and easy.

It will still be possible to report fatal and major injuries and incidents by telephone. call the Incident Contact Centre on 0845 300 9923 (opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5 pm).



It is hoped that this bold move will allow the HSE to be more efficient in the way it works and make the statutory reporting process quick and easy, reducing administration and cost burdens on both the business and the regulator.

Trevor Carlile, the HSE's Director of Strategy said

"More than half of reportable injuries are already notified to HSE through the website and this proportion has been increasing steadily over the past seven years. Taking advantage of the growing use of the internet allows HSE to be more efficient in the way it works."

There is the expectation that people are more computer literate these days and HSE seek to take advantage of the growing use of the internet.

In a move to improve efficiency further and deliver value for taxpayers, HSE's Infoline telephone service, which currently provides a basic information service to callers, will end on 30 September 2011. Peligro clients can however take advantage of our helpline on 0845 643 9707 for any health and safety advice requirements.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSED CHANGES

Employers should also be aware that a consultation to amend reporting requirements ended on 9th May 2011 and is likely to result in a further change to reporting requirements. In addition to the way accidents are now reported to the HSE there have been proposed changes in the reporting period for workplace injuries.

Under current rules when an employee is absent from work for more than three days following an incident, employers are required to report the injury to the relevant enforcing authority - either HSE or the local council. The proposed amendment increases this 'over three day' period to over seven consecutive days. These changes to RIDDOR were recommended in the Young report on health and safety published last year. This period is to be extended to seven consecutive days when the amendment to the regulations takes effect on 6 April 2012.

The change would align the incident reporting threshold with that for obtaining a 'fit note' from a GP for sickness absence which came in on 6 April 2010, thereby making employee absence easier to manage. This would ensure that someone who has suffered a reportable injury has had a professional medical assessment.

There has been some debate that these changes could cause some employers to think that accidents causing people to be off work for less than seven days are not serious. There should be no doubt that any injury that causes an employee to be absent from work should be taken seriously – especially as health and safety standards might already be under threat as companies try to cut costs. Deaths in the workplace rose to 171 last year, following a record low the previous year.

Time will tell what impact the RIDDOR changes will have. Lord Young's report recommended that the HSE conduct a wide-ranging review of all aspects of the regulations so more fundamental changes could soon be on the horizon for employers.

These RIDDOR changes present an opportunity for employers to make sure they understand the process, but also to educate their workforce on what is required of them so they are always compliant. If you would like further information about the changes to RIDDOR please contact us.

We will of course keep you informed as and when any further changes are made.

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0845 643 9707

