

HSE target Construction firms in new health and safety inspections

October has seen the start of another campaign by the HSE (Health and Safety Executive). Inspections will take place with a specific focus on respiratory risks and occupational lung disease, looking at the measures businesses have in place to protect their workers' lungs from the likes of asbestos, silica and wood dust.

HSE say they will “be specifically be looking for evidence of construction workers knowing the risks, planning their work and using the right controls, and if necessary will use enforcement to ensure people are protected”

The follow on will no doubt be Fee for Intervention invoices and potential enforcement actions so duty holders would do well to review their safety systems with special attention to PPE for respiratory exposures and seek legal advice in the event material breaches are alleged to have occurred.

Inspectors can take a position which is not justified simply because it is their opinion which may be uninformed and lacking any backing from published guidance or received wisdom.

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26 October 2018