

In this issue:



EPM commended at HazardEx awards
The recent HazardEx awards Gala dinner in Harrogate saw EPM Solutions given high profile recognition.



FPS EXPO 2009
To ensure our service remains of the highest quality EPM recently attended this oil and gas industry event.



PAS 55
We explain PAS 55, how it can benefit you, and how EPM Solutions can help you achieve this BSI standard.



What is CompEx?
Safe installation of electrical equipment in explosive environments is essential. CompEx is also an essential training course to help ensure good practice.



The 2009 Machinery Directive
Do you comply and will you still comply? Unlike previous versions of the directive there will be no transitional period for compliance.

Jail for breaching H&S regulations.

Tougher sentencing for dutyholders in breach of health & safety regulations came into force in January 2009. This means higher fines and for some the prospect of a prison sentence.

Health and safety in the workplace is not always given the attention it deserves. Too often many managers find that time restraints and cost cutting measures get in the way of good practice. However, with the new offences act making prison sentences for regulatory breaches a real possibility the time has come for a more serious approach to health and safety compliance.



Under the Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008 magistrates are now able to impose bigger fines for regulatory breaches, and in both the magistrates' and crown courts individual imprisonments will be an option. According to Lord Grocott, who guided the Bill through the Lords, the changes are designed to "punish the criminally negligent who put life and limb in danger in the workplace, to deter those who are tempted to cut costs by breaking the health and safety law, and to render faster and more efficient justice".

What will be of concern to most managers and dutyholders is the extended power of imprisonment. The key question is, to what extent will this new authority result in prison sentences? The view is that the HSE has very high thresholds when it comes

to seeking custodial sentences. The new powers respond to long-term demands from judges for the power of imprisonment only in particularly shocking cases. That said, if you are concerned about whether your business is operating within the law concerning health and safety then EPM Solutions may be able to assist you. Just call us on 0141 848 6609 for more information.

The new penalties			
	Offence	Now	From 16/1/09
Magistrates' court	Breaches of general duties under HSW Act	Fine up to £20K	Fine up to £20K and/or up to 12 months imprisonment
	Breaches of safety regulations	Fine up to £5K	Fine up to £20K and/or up to 12 months imprisonment
Crown court	Breaches of safety regulations	Fine up to £20K	Fine up to £20K and/or up to 2 years imprisonment



What is CompEx?

CompEx training provides essential knowledge and practical skills to enable safe electrical installation work in potentially explosive atmospheres.

CompEx is a training initiative, jointly developed by the Engineering Equipment and Materials Users' Association (EEMUA) and JTL, the leading training provider to the building services engineering sector. The scheme is accredited by JTL and supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). There is a national network of approved assessment centres that provide CompEx training located across the UK.

The CompEx Training Scheme provides trainees with essential knowledge and practical skills to enable safe electrical installation work in potentially explosive atmospheres, whether due to flammable gas or combustible dust. Potentially explosive atmospheres occur in onshore and offshore petrochemical plants and refining plants. They are also found in distilleries, paint spraying plants, flourmills, woodworking machine plants, the water industry and petrol forecourt environments. Failure to ensure safe working practices in these circumstances could result in the ignition of explosive gases or dust clouds leading to injury or even fatalities.

The training is covered over 10 modules and can be taken in pairs dependant upon individual needs. Following completion of the training each candidate is required to demonstrate competence through a series of practical tests and written multi-choice test papers, with successful candidates receiving a CompEx Certificate of Core Competence. CompEx is an industry recognised competency standard pursuant to DSEAR / ATEX compliance. Should you not require the in depth technical training that the CompEx modules provide and merely require a background / higher level of understanding of CompEx, a new foundation course has been designed and introduced for this purpose.

Useful websites:

www.compex.org.uk

www.eemua.co.uk

www.jtltraining.com

EPM Solutions employ engineering specialists who are trained to CompEx standards. This allows us to carry out electrical installation in explosive atmospheres as well electrical equipment inspection to support our wider asset management service. If you are a software provider and are looking for a partner who can deliver such a solution for your clients then please call Gary Kerr on 0141 848 6609.

Inspection of Ex Equipment



Inspection of Ex electrical equipment featured strongly at the recent Hazard Ex Conference. Simon Brown, HSE Offshore Division, made the following relevant point during his presentation: "Inspection of EX Equipment is critical to assuring continuing integrity of the types of protection that enable the equipment's use, in potentially flammable atmospheres; yet such inspections are not undertaken adequately both with regard to frequency of inspection, grade of inspection and completeness of portfolio of Ex equipment installed. This is due in part to the onerous requirements of the IEC 60079 – 17"

Further guidance for the management of inspections of Ex Electrical Equipment Ignition risk has been published in support of IEC 60079 – 17 – (ISBN 978 0 85293 513 2, October 2008). Soft or hard copies of this guidance can be procured at www.energyinstpubs.org.uk. EPM currently deliver an Electrical Equipment Inspection Service on behalf of a number of existing clients. This provides the assurance our clients require pursuant to compliance with BSI EN 60079 Part 17.

Gary Kerr, Managing Director of EPM is placing great emphasis on IEC 60079 – 17 compliance as a continually evolving inspection service. To this end EPM are offering an invitation to potential partners who would be interested in complementing EPMs strength in this area.

How good are you?

Q: What is PAS 55?

A: PAS 55 is the British Standards Institution's "Publicly Available Specification" for the optimised management of physical assets and infrastructure - it provides clear definitions and a 21 point requirements specification for joined-up, optimised and whole life asset management systems.

Q: Why do we need PAS 55?

A: Organisations that have adopted such a rigorous, joined-up and optimised approach have consistently delivered significant bottom line cost and performance/service improvements. PAS 55 also provides clear evidence of sustainable good governance to customers, investors, regulators and other stakeholders.

Companies who adopt PAS 55 will see the following benefits:

- 30 to 50% cost reduction
- Sustainable environmental and carbon compliance
- Raised capability and performance of assets
- Improved operating efficiency, quality and safety

Would you like an internationally recognised quality standard that demonstrates to regulatory authorities that your organisation has an asset management system that is effective, meets regulatory objectives and helps deliver sustainable performance for your customers? EPM Solutions currently deliver all of this for a wide range of clients and we can do the same for you. **Simply call 0141 848 6609 today for more information.**



Did you know?

There is a new Machinery Directive, which means many items of safety equipment have been redefined.



All machines in the European Economic Area (EEA) must comply with the Machinery Directive. The Directive sets out the procedures that manufacturers must conform to in terms of Essential Health & Safety Requirements (EHSRs). The original machinery directive has been in existence since 1989. After a series of amendments it was consolidated in 1998 and referred to as 98/37/EC. Following a number of changes the Directive was completely modernised in 2006 and is now known as Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC. The Member States have until 29th June

2008 to adopt and publish the national laws and regulations transposing the provisions of the new Directive into national law. The provisions of the new Directive become applicable on 29th December 2009.

- To comply with the directive you need to:**
- Demonstrate compliance with the essential health and safety requirements
 - Carry out the appropriate conformity assessment procedure
 - Draw up and issue the declaration of conformity or incorporation
 - Apply the CE mark

For more information contact EPM or visit www.berr.gov.uk

5 reasons to be cheerful

The mass media won't report it, so this month we have decided to continue our reasons to be cheerful series.

1. UK exports are suddenly looking like excellent value
2. The holiday season is upon us and deals are good outside the Eurozone
3. Most millionaires are created in recessions
4. According to the Nationwide, house prices rose in March by 0.9%.
5. Guinness is good for you.

EPM put on pedestal

At the HazardEx awards 2009 EPM Solutions received a significant boost to its national profile as it is recognised for services to asset intensive companies.

At the recent Hazard Ex Awards in Harrogate EPM Solutions were delighted to receive high praise in recognition of their contribution to the 'User Application of the Year' category. Held at the events Gala dinner evening on 25th February 2009 at the Majestic Hotel EPM were acknowledged for their contribution

to the industry through the implementation of Computerised Engineering Software Systems for asset intensive companies. Commenting on the event Managing Director Gary Kerr said, "Being recognised at this level at a national event such as HazardEx is a great testament to EPM and the team. I'm absolutely delighted."

EPM Solutions provides a focused asset management, engineering and project management service for asset intensive companies in a number of industry sectors. If you are a software provider and are looking for an implementation partner then we would like to hear from you. Please call Gary Kerr on 0141 848 6609.

FPS EXPO 2009

EPM recently attended the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers FPS EXPO 2009. The event had been organised specifically for the oil distribution industry in the UK and Eire. FPS gave EPM the opportunity to see first hand the latest available products and innovations. It provided the perfect platform for confronting issues and legislation affecting the industry. With EPM's strong focus on asset management for this sector attending FPS EXPO will ensure our service remains at the leading edge of the industry.

Staff Spotlight - Tommy McGovern

If Tommy won the lottery he would take 15 people to a location 3,000 miles from Greenock - the question is where and would he stay there?



Place of birth

Greenock

Position held at work

Project Manager - Safety, Quality & Environment

Interests

My Kids, My good lady, Music, Cooking - far too many to list

Favourite food

A damned good Indian Curry (Begum Bahar) oh! - Olives

Favourite music and artist

Jazz / Fusion (Song - My Cherie Amour - Stevie Wonder)

Favourite TV programme

Anything of interest on Sky Arts or the Discovery Channel

Favourite movie

The Godfather (any good Gangster Flick)

Favourite place visited

Rome - Outstanding!

If you were not at EPM, what would you like to be doing?

Professional Musician on the road - given half the chance

If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

Frank Sinatra - I'd love the chance to be a singer in a Big Band

Favourite actor

Walter Matthau (he's the James Watt of acting - he invented it)

One thing that nobody knows about you

Everybody knows far too much - there in lies the problem!

What would you do if you won the lottery

STOP work - Pick up the cheque! Book flight tickets for an undisclosed location, for 15 people, 3000 miles from Greenock.

Guess the rest.

If you could change one thing in the world what would it be?

The ever increasing demands put on everybody from everything around us everyday! - Chill man.

What do you enjoy most about working at EPM?

The work ethic in the office and my compatriots are great. Sitting at the veterans table - there's a lot of wise heads around.