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health, safety and wellbeing in the built environment

Summer 2022



Five years on

How has construction
changed since Grenfell?



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What are the health and safety risks of retrofitting buildings?

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While we aim to use images that demonstrate best practice in this magazine, some are for illustrative purposes only.



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Association for Project Safety
5 New Mart Place, Edinburgh EH14 1RW
Telephone: +44 (0)131 442 6600
www.aps.org.uk | info@aps.org.uk

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Atom Media Partners, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HP
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7490 5595
www.atompublishing.co.uk | eva@atompublishing.co.uk

Project Safety Journal
Editor: Will Mann
will.mann@atompublishing.co.uk
Associate editor: Kristina Smith
kristina.smith@atompublishing.co.uk
Production editor: Sarah Cutforth
Art editor: Heather Rugeley
Advertising manager: Dave Smith
dave@atompublishing.co.uk

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Working overseas

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“We are all judgemental but I became better at being less judgemental when I watched what different cultures did”
Malcolm Shiels, Costain





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Welcome

In a packed summer edition we speak to experts about the changes since Grenfell and offer specialist guidance on inclusive design and retrofitting. By **Lesley McLeod**

What's that song from the classic musical *Carousel*? That's it, June is Bustin' Out All Over. And that's just about right for this bumper summer edition of the APS membership magazine, *Project Safety Journal*. This is a packed summer special and it's hitting your desks and desktops at a key time for the construction sector.

The Building Safety Act is set to change the lives of everyone looking to make our built environment safer for workers and end users alike. The law finally made it to the statute book at the end of April and our news feature takes a deep dive into people's reactions. Much as there is a general welcome for the new legislation, there is a sense the real work getting the regulations right is – unlike for the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations we talk about on page 27 – only just beginning.

The Act certainly marks a milestone on the road that started when fire engulfed the Grenfell Tower. It is appropriate we take a look at how things have changed in the five



Lesley McLeod
Association for
Project Safety

“The Building Safety Act is set to change the lives of everyone looking to make our built environment safer

years since the disaster. Kristina Smith's article brings together a host of industry experts – including our own president, Jonathan Moulam, to reflect on what has improved – and what more still needs to be done.

Certainly, there are areas where we could do better. Sarah Meek, from our partner charity Mates in Mind, joins us to talk the ongoing crisis in construction mental health and the shock statistic that two-thirds of construction staff say the toxic culture on site is keeping people from speaking out and getting the help they need.

Sympathetic design keeping people with physical or mobility needs in mind is also often overlooked. So, it is good to hear from Ed Warner from Motionspot about on what we need to be doing to make every project accessible for everyone.

Of course another of the burning issues of the day is – quite literally – climate change. Highlighting World Environment Day on 5 June we have a piece about the increasing need to reuse our buildings and materials.

The feature also frontruns our autumn webinar series which will look at retrofit in more detail – you'll find a list of upcoming events on page 30. Our past events are on the APS website at: www.aps.org.uk/past-events.

We've squeezed in our regular stories too. There's a brilliant feature about our own friend in the north, Malcolm Shiels – and we catch up on the vexed questions of professional indemnity insurance as well as the latest HSE prosecutions.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Project Safety Journal*.

Remember, the magazine now has its own dedicated website – www.projectsafetyjournal.com – so you can keep up to date with all the news from the Association for Project Safety and the world of design risk management in between editions of the magazine itself.

Let us know what you think and, if there is anything you want us to cover, just drop us a line and we will see what we can do. ●

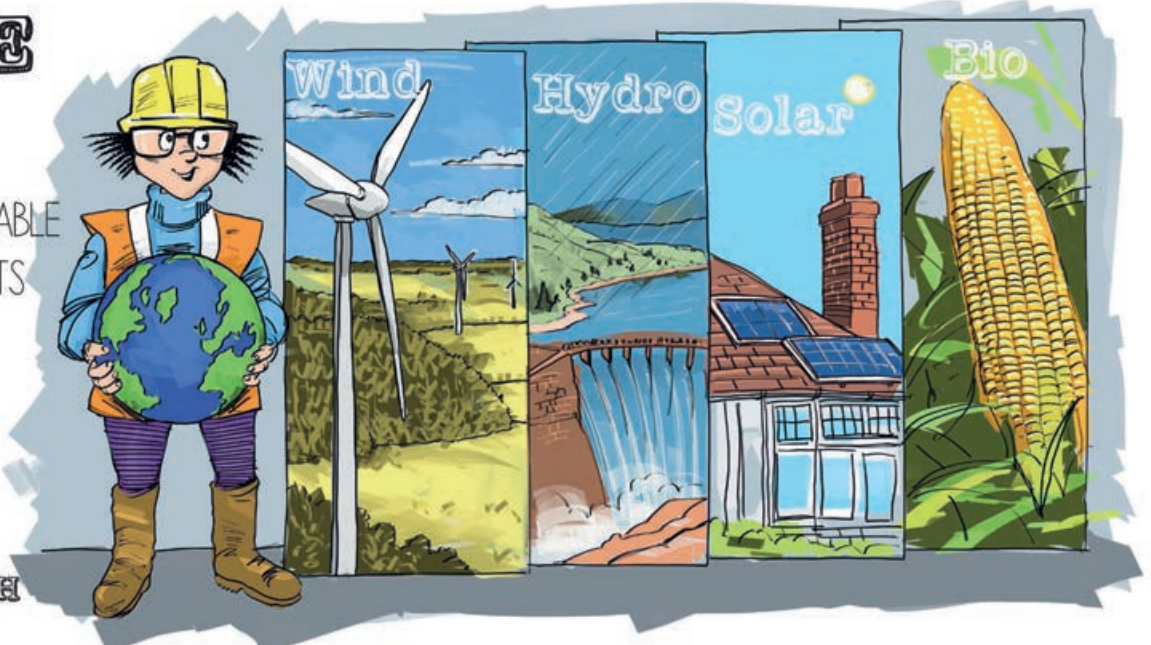
Lesley McLeod is CEO of the Association for Project Safety.

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Building Safety Act gets cautious welcome

After a series of amendments, the Building Safety Act has finally become law – though construction professional bodies have expressed concerns about its likely impact



Health and safety professionals and the wider construction industry have welcomed the arrival of the Building Safety Act – with some reservations.

The Association for Project Safety said it was “pleased that the Act will facilitate the required competence and accountability for those involved in building regulations compliance”, while noting that “much of the detail will be introduced in secondary legislation”.

The Chartered Institute of Building also welcomed the news that the Act had passed into law, while expressing concerns about “some of the recent amendments, such

The Building Safety Act represents the biggest shake-up in the building regulations for 40 years

as removing the duty to appoint a building safety manager”.

The Construction Industry Council, which represents most professional bodies across the built environment, gave the Act “three (muted) cheers”. It said: “The Act represents a paradigm shift in the way in which residential buildings are to be designed, built, managed and regulated.”

But the council added: “Despite the five years that have elapsed since Grenfell, the wider industry is still ill-prepared for the changes to come.”

The Building Safety Bill was first debated by the House of Commons in July 2021. It was passed, after a series of amendments, on 28 April

2022. The government introduced the Bill in response to the Grenfell Tower disaster and Dame Judith Hackitt’s subsequent Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

While many of Hackitt’s recommendations have become law, some have been discarded during the Bill’s passage through parliament.

The Act enshrines in law the role of the Building Safety Regulator, which sits inside the Health & Safety Executive, and will oversee the new regime with powers of enforcement and sanctions. The National Construction Products Regulator will be able to remove dangerous products from the market.

Reaction to the Building Safety Act

Construction industry organisations respond to the changes the legislation will bring

Association for Project Safety

"The APS welcomes the changes that the Building Safety Act will introduce, which will complement the existing CDM 2015 regulations and lead to a significant improvement in fire and structural safety for occupants in higher-risk buildings.

"The arrangements for the management of higher-risk buildings in occupation are also welcomed as are the measures for ensuring that remedial work will be carried out and funded by the responsible parties. The Act... will require significant upskilling for many clients, designers, contractors and building managers.

"The construction industry must ensure that consumers get buildings designed and built to the appropriate safety standards and that we never have another Grenfell."

Chartered Institute of Building

"We are pleased the Building Safety Bill has received Royal Assent to ensure building safety is a priority and to provide much needed accountability in the system.

"This provides long overdue certainty for the industry, though the next 12 to 18 months will be crucial in preparing built environment professionals for the new roles and competencies that will be required.

"However, concerns remain that some of the recent amendments,

such as removing the duty to appoint a building safety manager, will lead to a lack of clarity over the right competencies and training for those in the 'accountable persons' role and potential inconsistency in the implementation of building safety management regimes."

Construction Industry Council

"CIC has reservations about the extensive changes that have been made during the passage of the Bill. In particular, the holistic process recommended by Dame Judith Hackitt has been cherry-picked. Her rounded approach to achieving building safety has been impacted.

"CIC is also concerned about the impact of extended liability under the Act, including for any works to dwellings (whether higher risk or not). It is particularly concerned about extending the period of liability under the Defective Premises Act from six to 30 years. This amendment is likely to further exacerbate an already uncertain market for professional indemnity insurance.

"In tandem with the transitional period of 18-24 months for the secondary legislation, there needs to be considerable communication to create the necessary culture change in the industry and absorb the new regulatory regime."

Chief inspector Peter Baker: Act introduces tough new measures



HSE warning to industry: 'Get ready now'

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has delivered a blunt message to the construction industry after the Building Safety Act became law.

The organisation, through the Building Safety Regulator, will oversee the safety and standards of all buildings and regulate high-rise buildings.

In a statement, the HSE said: "Anyone who still holds on to the idea that building safety is something that can be left to the later stages of design and construction needs to change their thinking. Good building design starts well before the planning stages and carries on right through so that buildings are safe to build and safe to live in and use.

"Those who manage high-rise buildings need to start understanding what a safety case is and examine whether the safety measures in place need strengthening to properly protect residents.

"As designers, clients and contractors, you will need to collaborate to comply with building regulations and build good practice for managing information about the building. You will need to share this with each other so you can demonstrate how a building will remain safe when occupied."

The HSE said it was working with residents to ensure they had a voice in the new building safety regime and called on the construction industry to "play their part in making buildings safer".

Peter Baker, chief inspector of buildings, said: "The Building Safety Act introduces tough new measures for the safety and quality of buildings which will be enforced by the new independent regulator being established in the HSE.

"I call on everyone involved in the design, construction and management of buildings in England to now step up, get ready for the changes and work together to drive the necessary culture change to protect people and deliver safe and good quality buildings."

"I call on everyone involved in the design, construction and management of buildings in England to now step up and work together to drive the necessary culture change

Peter Baker, HSE

The New Homes Ombudsman also comes in with the Act and will provide redress for buyers who purchase faulty new-build homes.

One of Hackitt's key proposals, the requirement for a 'golden thread' of information for the storage and dissemination of all safety-related matters in the design and construction of high-risk residential buildings, has also made it through into the final Act.

There are new requirements on dutyholders to have clear accountability and statutory responsibilities as buildings are designed, constructed and refurbished. But Hackitt's recommendation for the new role of

building safety manager, to provide a single point of responsibility for in-scope buildings, was dropped. The government included the role in their draft bill but deleted it on 22 March due to the extra cost it would mean for leaseholders.

The Building Safety Act represents the biggest shake-up in the building regulations for 40 years. Many of the Act's provisions will not come into force for another 12 to 18 months and will require secondary legislation.

A recent survey by *Construction Management* magazine found that only 23% of construction professionals think that they and their organisations are ready for the Bill. ●



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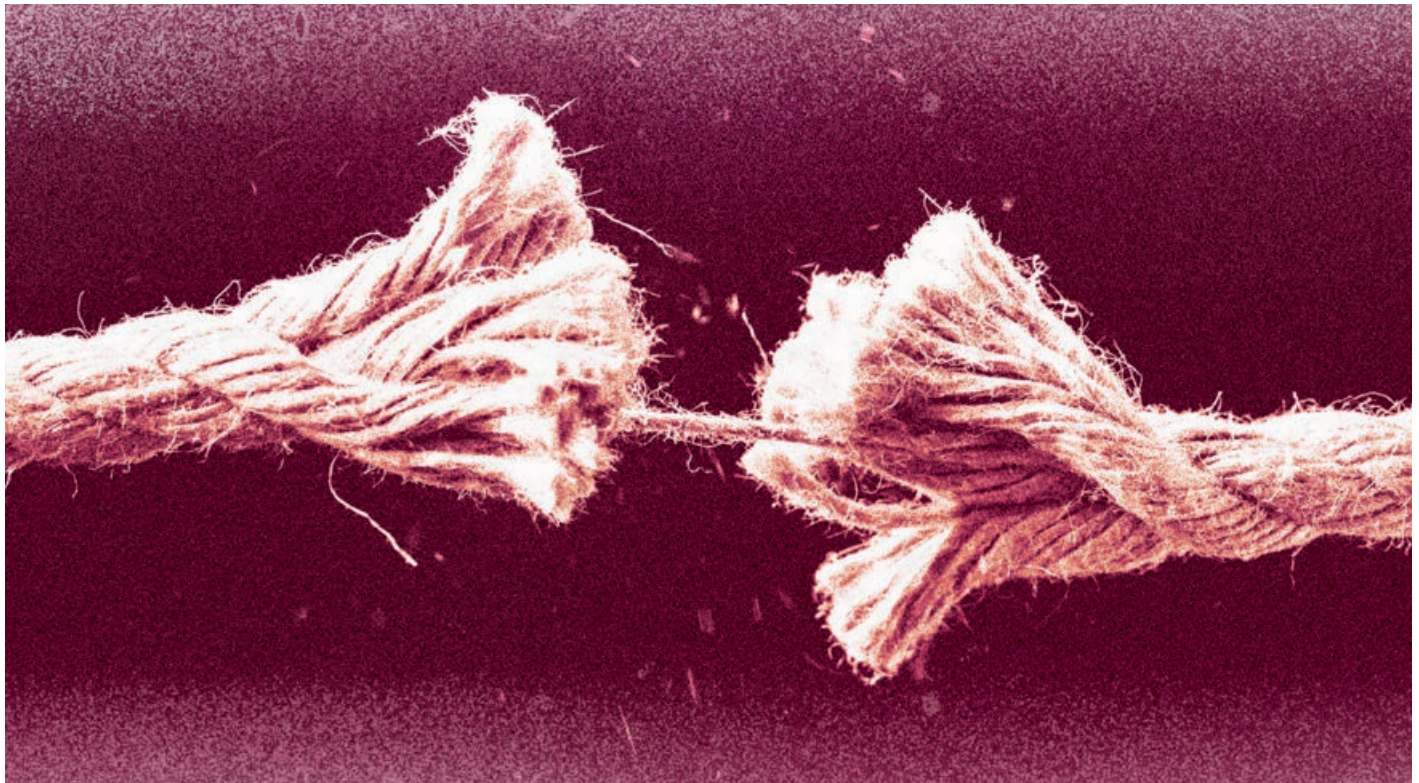
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Breaking point

Two-thirds of workers say the culture on site means they can't talk about mental health, says **Sarah Meek**



Last year, early findings from our major study into the mental health of self-employed construction workers and those working in small firms showed worrying results. Results from over 300 respondents suggested that almost a third are now living with elevated levels of anxiety every day.

Construction workers from a range of trades told researchers from Mates in Mind and the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) that the continuing stigma of mental illness prevents them from discussing it beyond close friends or family members. Over two-thirds of those surveyed believe there's a stigma surrounding mental health which stops them from talking about it and 44% believe their workload is too high.

When asked how they had responded to low mood over the past six months, over 40% of respondents considered quitting or changing their job, 35% found themselves drinking more alcohol than usual and over 15% were taking non-prescription drugs.



Sarah Meek
Managing director,
Mates in Mind

In the UK, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. And in construction – a male-dominated industry – men are three times more likely again to take their own lives. According to the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), two people working in the UK construction industry die by suicide every day – over 700 people a year.

We're learning more about the mental health challenges workers face as we conduct further interviews as part of our research. But it is vital that organisations act now to create a culture of support where there is no shame in people admitting that they are suffering with poor mental health.

Education and training are key to eliminating the stigma. Since it was founded in 2017, Mates in Mind has empowered hundreds of organisations across the UK to tackle the silence surrounding mental ill health and embed a positive culture change within their workplaces. Additionally, we all need to change as individuals in our own social attitudes towards mental illness.

Prevention is the goal. But until people feel comfortable to talk about

“Two people working in the UK construction industry die by suicide every day – over 700 people a year

the fact that they are suffering from stress or need help, it is difficult to identify problems and take steps to make changes. Currently we know that people are often reluctant to open up for fear of appearing 'weak' or damaging their career prospects.

It is vital that we get the conversation started. We're all conditioned to say "fine" or "OK" when someone asks how we are. So, when asking if a friend or colleague is OK, we have a tendency to take their first answer at face value. That second "How are you really?" can make all the difference and prompt people to begin the important conversations that can lead to them getting the support and help they need. ●

Sarah Meek is managing director of Mates in Mind.



What did we learn from Grenfell?

It's been five years since the Grenfell fire, but has anything changed? **Kristina Smith** put that question to five industry practitioners

NIGEL BARKER PHOTOGRAPHY



Moulam: “The Act can work but I just think it’s overcomplex”

“We should have been doing this anyway”

Jon Moulam, president, APS

The last five years have seen very little change in as much as the pandemic has severely restricted the construction of any new buildings that would fall into that category of high-rise. If anything, we have seen a greater reluctance to be involved in such new buildings.

At the same time, we have seen a big increase in the rectification market. There are two categories: those buildings that clearly have the wrong cladding on and those buildings where there are inherent or hidden defects due to incorrect fire stopping and the like. It strikes me that proper and appropriate risk assessments have not always taken place; instead, there’s a blanket approach to taking everything off and starting again.

One of the biggest things coming out of the Act is clearly the new regime for construction products. The fact that construction products need a new system for testing and acceptance

is rather insightful of how poorly we have been doing it in the past.

It’s a mistake to think that the Building Safety Act won’t affect you because you don’t work on in-scope buildings. It will affect everything that has building regulations applied to it.

In my view, it is not really introducing anything that’s more onerous, it is reflecting what we should all have been doing.

The principal designer (PD) role for CDM and for building safety is the same role and it should be recognised as such. The biggest issue is how the PD building safety will ensure the building regulations are met. At this time there is no “as far as reasonably practical” included in the text.

We have now seen the fact that the building safety manager is most likely to disappear. If competency and coordination post-occupancy are not adequately dealt with, there’s a great risk we will lose any of the benefits we might have got from the role of building safety manager.

The Act can work but I just think it’s overcomplex. What do designers need to do? In my view, they just need to do their jobs better. These are not super complex buildings. Hospitals and shopping centres all have very strong fire plans, the operators understand what they need to do and they have higher levels of safety and fire protection in them. It’s interesting that we thought less of our residential buildings.

“In our business, we have seen an increase in demand for very specific training – for instance on inspecting fire doors or cavity barriers
Carla Crocombe, Safety Rocks

“We need a change of mindset”

Carla Crocombe, managing director, Safety Rocks

Reflecting on the reports that came after Grenfell, it struck me that there was no single failure that caused the disaster. We often find that in accident investigations too. People are keen to find one thing to blame, but there is usually a chain of events that lead to a catastrophe.

We see that there will be radical changes in enforcement and regulation, but we need radical changes in competence, behaviours and awareness too. They took a relatively safe building and made it unsafe. And at no point did anyone say or do anything that would have prevented the tragedy occurring. That is a mindset issue.

The other area for reflection is materials. We need changes in technical specifications and to look at the detail of how things intersect. In considering chemical risk we often talk about synergistic effects. At Grenfell, though, we always talk about the cladding, but it was not the only issue.

I do see evidence that people are looking to increase their competence. In our business, we have seen an increase in demand for very specific training – for instance, on inspecting fire doors or cavity barriers. I think that’s a positive thing.

In terms of future change, the industry needs to take a long, hard look at itself and the review process is going to be an ongoing thing. The change I would like to see is for the people who are building to genuinely care about the people who will occupy the buildings. The people at the top need to properly care, not just for a moment and then go back to focus on ‘on time and on budget’. ►

“It’s a mistake to think that the Building Safety Act won’t affect you because you don’t work on in-scope buildings. It will affect everything that has building regulations applied to it
Jon Moulam, APS

Crocombe: “The industry needs to take a long, hard look at itself”



JEMIMA WILCOX PHOTOGRAPHY

“You don’t know what’s coming!”

Mark Snelling, chair, APS Regulation and Policy Committee



Snelling: “We need to have a conversation”

I don’t think many people understand what’s coming at them. The messaging has been focusing on high-rise buildings and that’s not where the significant changes are.

The Building Safety Act introduces a new set of regulations that apply to building regulation compliance, with the same set of dutyholders as for CDM. The high-rise building regulations will affect small numbers of people and projects. But the Building (Appointment of Persons, Industry Competence and Dutyholders) (England) Regulations will affect the whole industry.

“Whereas now it is pretty hard to pin down who to prosecute, all of a sudden it will be clear who the dutyholders are
Mark Snelling, APS Regulation and Policy Committee

Whereas now it is pretty hard to pin down who to prosecute under the building regulations, all of a sudden it will be clear who the dutyholders are. They will have a duty to be competent and they will be criminally liable for their failures.

I do not think designers have got their head round the need for evidencing, which is going to be the biggest challenge. At the moment, designers tend to pass a lot of the design detailing down to the design and build contractor and say: “You deal with it.”

But if you were a principal designer (PD) at that early stage, and provided a dearth of information to the design and build contractor, how are you going to evidence everything in the last stages? Designers and principal designers absolutely have to be able to evidence their position related to structural and fire safety. If you just pass it down the line, you must provide clear instructions as to what people must do.

As the Act stands now, there is no need for competency post-occupancy, although this may change. They got rid of the building safety manager because it appeared too expensive for residents. There’s also a cost challenge post-occupancy with maintaining the golden thread information that will be required to ensure fire and structural safety. Residents are willing to pay so little for managing the building.

We need to have a conversation about what information is essential in the golden thread post-occupancy. It has to be risk based. If we don’t get the messaging right, we will lose the golden thread like we lost the building safety manager.

“The Building Safety Act will be weak if it has no commitment to full disclosure and exchange of fire safety information at handover
Ian Abley, Fire Protection Association

“Insurers’ confidence has been shaken”

Ian Abley, RISCAuthority principal consultant, Fire Protection Association

Since Grenfell, there has been uncertainty about which buildings require remediation. The official post-Grenfell reinterpretation of Paragraph 12.7 in Approved Document Part B (2006) (ADB), which sets the standards for insulation material, confused freeholders, leaseholders and tenants of high-rise buildings about combustible external wall construction.

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry has established that Paragraph 12.7 only applied to insulation on buildings with a storey over 18m above ground. (The wording says “with a storey 18m or more above ground level”.) Consequences for the apportionment of remedial costs are significant.

The construction industry expected statutory guidance approved by the



Abley: “Insurers have had their confidence shaken in MMC”



secretary of state under Section 6 of the 1984 Building Act could be relied upon to provide life safety as Regulation 8 of the 2010 building regulations.

Insurers then sought additional measures of property protection to reduce the potential for damage and possible asset loss in the event of fire. That assumption about life safety was called into question and insurers have had their confidence shaken in methods of construction that involve combustible materials and cavities – in internal walls and floors as well as in external walls.

The government must clarify that Paragraph 12.7 in ADB (2006) applies to insulation product on high-rise buildings only. Otherwise, it will be impossible for the secretary of state to bring credible claims for recovery of apportioned costs.

That clarification of the statutory guidance will have to be backed with a commitment to the taxpayer funding remedial costs for cases where unsafe construction has resulted from following the building regulations. Then the Building Safety Act may be confidently applied to the extensive external wall remedial programme that will be required alongside new building projects.

The Building Safety Act will be weak if it has no commitment to full disclosure and exchange of fire safety information at handover, as Regulation 38 of the 2010 building regulations already expects.

A greater rigour in what constitutes full disclosure will result. This is likely to bring better discipline to innovation in construction methods and a period of critical appraisal of forms of construction involving combustible materials and cavities, such as modular.

Whitty: “A lot of people don’t understand about the golden thread”



“An opportunity to differentiate”

Graeme Whitty, national product director, Willmott Dixon

“Historically the fire engineer was drafted in at the end. Now every project we deliver has a fire engineer appointed early, regardless of the height
Graeme Whitty, Willmott Dixon

As a business, we welcome the Building Safety Act. It sheds a light on some of the shadier practices in the industry. We want to differentiate ourselves from that.

We started six to seven years ago looking at quality as a group. Since Grenfell we have also been looking at quality in terms of building safety.

Buildings are complicated. There are so many different ways of building and so many different products you can use. It’s about making sure the combination of products will perform as it is intended to do. We are now a lot more careful in integrating the information and the advice we receive from manufacturers.

We now collect more information than ever on technical and compliance aspects of the projects that we are tendering. We try to avoid putting any combustible material in any of our buildings, first for people

safety but second for insurance. We believe that there are buildings being built that comply with the building regulations but will be a struggle to insure.

Historically the fire engineer was a secondary consultant rather than a primary one, drafted in at the end. Now every project we deliver has a fire engineer appointed early, regardless of the height.

A lot of people don’t understand about the golden thread and what it will entail – the sheer volume of information and how to collect it. In our work as an early adopter, we have been lobbying government as to how they can improve the regime so that it’s workable. In the CDM regulations the role of the coordinator never really delivered. The coordinator became a post box rather than helping to shape and steer the project. We don’t want the same thing to happen here. ►

“We may lose SMEs”

Andrew Leslie, head of membership, APS

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, I saw major clients, developers and their design teams quickly reassessing their design specifications to remove products that had been identified as potential fire risks post Grenfell, particularly aluminium composite material (ACM). This was driven by funders who anticipated problems with selling developments containing such products on. I also witnessed developers taking stock of recently constructed residential projects – not always buildings over 18m – and taking remedial action at their own expense where required.

For a long time, there had been concerns about the complexity of fire safety regulations and the lack of clarity in building regulations (England and Wales). Grenfell has prompted a major review and assessment of regulation and those responsible for ensuring compliance. And it has created an appreciation that building safety risk is not simply a matter of ticking boxes or blindly applying regulations or accepting manufacturer information on trust.

There is confusion around the terminology introduced by the secondary legislation associated with

“Grenfell has created an appreciation that building safety risk is not simply a matter of ticking boxes or blindly applying regulations”
Andrew Leslie, APS

the Building Safety Act. Giving the new dutyholders now responsible for building regulation compliance the same names as those under CDM is not helpful. Although, potentially both the building regulation compliance and CDM roles could be performed by a single competent dutyholder, there is a strong likelihood that some projects will have two principal designers, particularly if there remains a reluctance by designers to engage with the CDM part, as has been the case since CDM was introduced in 1995.

One of the significant impacts of the post-Grenfell fallout and the anticipated requirements of the Building Safety Act and associated legislation has been wholesale increases in professional indemnity insurance relating to concerns about competence to address fire safety and combustible materials.

I am not convinced that the insurance industry or their underwriters fully understand what additional risks they would be exposed to post Grenfell, bearing in mind that the insured party is not insured at all if they act negligently.

A disturbing – and unintended – outcome of the Building Safety

Act and its associated legislation is that it could force some SMEs out of the industry due to the cost of insurance.

Hopefully the golden thread requirement for high-risk buildings will see the industry develop its safety information-gathering skills which are already required for the CDM health and safety file and see a significant improvement in the quality of information being passed on to all building owners and occupiers. I am not sure why the golden thread has not been linked to the health and safety file requirement.

The momentum created by the post-Grenfell reports leading to the BSB and its associated legislation has competence at its heart. All-industry competence is a big ask. There are a lot of seat-of-the-pants operators in the industry, a lot of shortcuts and a lot of commercial pressure.

There should be no real challenge for competent designers, constructors, building users and building managers: these regulations bring competence expectation to the level it should already have been at, but which was rarely demanded or monitored adequately. ●



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Retrofit risks

With World Environment Day on 5 June, the spotlight falls again on the need to retrofit existing buildings. But this work comes with its own health and safety concerns, as **Kristina Smith** explains



With net zero carbon deadlines fast approaching, national and local governments are turning their attention to our existing building stock. According to the UK Green Building Council, the built environment is responsible for 25% of UK carbon emissions, with houses responsible for around half of that and commercial buildings for a quarter.

Modest retrofit programmes have been under way for the last decade or so, but these must now ramp up significantly if we are to reach net zero by 2050. Most of the buildings we will be using then have already been built. For those councils that have set their net zero dates at 2030, the need to retrofit is even more urgent.

We know about the government's ambitious plans to introduce heat pumps to 80% of homes by 2050, but this measure alone won't be enough. Heat pumps tend to operate most efficiently at lower temperatures; not so good in heat-leaking older properties.

Expect a surge in refurbishment and retrofit projects – along with a surge in demand for people with the skills and experience needed to plan and manage them safely. These projects can be every bit as challenging as new builds, says Russell Blythe, managing director of Refocus Safety, an APS member who has worked almost exclusively on commercial and domestic refurbishment projects.

Investors and occupiers now demand energy-efficient space

“There are different things to think about on refurbishment projects,” says Blythe. “You have to think about the structure of the building and the impacts of the works on that. And, crucially, you have to think about the implications if the building is occupied.”

Building capacity

The government is looking to build capacity and momentum in the domestic energy efficiency retrofit sector through social housing. It has created the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), promising £800m between 2022 and 2025.

Privately owned homes are a much harder nut to crack, with historic attempts to stimulate action

27m

homes need retrofitting by 2050

£525bn

of investment in housing needed over 20 years

500,000

new professional and trades people needed for domestic upgrades alone

90%

of offices in regional cities need upgrading to meet 2030 EPC targets

through incentives such as the Green Deal failing to get off the ground. The hope is that activity in the social housing sector will help create a pool of professional installers in whom private householders can trust.

Any projects receiving government funding must operate in accordance with PAS 2035 for domestic retrofits, and firms must be certified accordingly. Introduced in 2019, PAS 2035 sets out a number of roles including that of retrofit co-ordinator (see box, right), a role which Federation of Master Builders (FMB) chief executive Brian Berry suggested APS members could consider when he spoke at last year's APS conference.

In the commercial sector, market forces seem more likely to drive a surge in retrofit. Investors and occupiers are now demanding energy-efficient space, with a risk that existing stock will become obsolete if not upgraded.

The government has said that all non-domestic properties must have an EPC Grade B energy efficiency rating by 2030. In a recent report, *Sustainability and Value in the Regions*, property consultant Jones Lang LaSalle says that 90% of the office stock in England and Wales' largest regional office markets needs retrofitting to meet that target. And it says that the upgrading of commercial stock needs to take place at a rate of 5% annually to hit 2050 carbon zero goals – which would be more than double historic refurb rates.

What are the risks?

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges when managing health and safety risks in refurbishment or retrofit projects is the tension between the need to survey the existing structure and fabric thoroughly versus the difficulty of carrying out intrusive surveys in occupied buildings.

“Design-wise, it's important to make sure you have the relevant information about the structure itself,



“You have a duty to appoint people with the relevant skills, knowledge and experience. If anything goes wrong the client could be prosecuted”
Russell Blythe, Refocus Safety

By 2030 all non-domestic properties must have an EPC Grade B rating

how it will take the loadings of the equipment,” says Blythe.

The presence of asbestos is a risk in any buildings constructed before 2000, warns Blythe. Specialist surveys and testing could be necessary but are often impossible to carry out until the project is under way if the building is in use.

Building occupants and their behaviour are an additional factor which must be considered when planning retrofit projects, says Blythe: “Communication is big in retrofit. You have to talk to the occupants about how to phase the works around them and then communicate that to the contractors so that they can create a delivery model where everything is safe.”

Whatever the size of retrofit, or the contractors involved, it's vital to check competency, says Blythe. “If you are appointing a contractor or someone to do any work under the general duties of CDM, you have a duty to appoint people with the relevant skills, knowledge and experience. If anything goes wrong the client could be prosecuted.”

Some early energy efficiency retrofit programmes have failed due to poorly designed and installed measures. For instance, incorrectly installed external or internal wall

insulation have led to damp and mould which can exacerbate health problems such as asthma, as well as increasing heat loss through the wall.

As with safety, the issue is again ensuring the right level of competency. “Make sure they are up to date and aware of what's happening,” says Blythe. “It's about appointing the right people to do the job.” ●

The role of retrofit coordinators

To comply with PAS 2035, a domestic retrofit project needs an approved retrofit coordinator who oversees the whole project from inception to completion. It's a wide-ranging role which requires knowledge of buildings and how they work, communication with different stakeholders and good project management skills.

The role includes:

- Carrying out a retrofit risk assessment for each dwelling or type of dwelling
- Developing a retrofit project plan
- Developing a medium-term (30-year) improvement plan for every dwelling
- Documenting project progress, including information supplied by building owners, and those involved in the delivery of the project.

To become an accredited retrofit coordinator, one needs a Level 5 Diploma in Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management.

For commercial properties the role of retrofit lead professional, set out in PAS 2038 for non-domestic energy efficiency retrofit, is similar to that of retrofit coordinator.

PAS 2038, published last year, requires the professional to be selected according to the nature and complexity of the project.





‘Respect and compromise’

When the global recession hit, Malcolm Shiels was tempted overseas to work on mega projects in the Middle East. We asked him about his experiences there and what they taught him

Why health and safety in the first place?

I observed two accidents – one where somebody got hurt pretty badly when a dumper he was driving overturned. Having spoken to trade union safety reps on site, I decided to become one. Sitting on the safety committees at the time, I quickly found that I could articulate my point of view just as well as the managers.

I studied for my NEBOSH and other safety qualifications while working on the tools and delivering pizzas at night to help pay for the training.

What took you to the Middle East?

It was 2009 or 2010, after the big financial crash. I had moved from the public sector into the private sector and was then working for Summers-Inman. Every week we were discussing who we would need to let go and taking pay cuts every second month. They were difficult times.

I met a former HSE inspector, who was then a safety manager in Saudi Arabia and needed a right-hand man. Half joking, I said I would come if the price was right. A day later I got a phone call and they offered me the job.

Shiels: “I learned so much from all the other cultures about how people treat each other”

“My view is that if we get health and safety right so that no one gets hurt, everything else we do, from a quality, programme and cost point of view, will fall into place

Malcolm Shiels, Costain

Describe your first job in Saudi

I was completely thrown in at the deep end. Three days after I arrived, the gentleman who had brought me over told me he was leaving. I was left in charge of multi-billion-dollar projects all over Saudi Arabia. Within nine days we had a scaffolding collapse which caused several deaths.

When I arrived they had taken my passport from me and locked it in the company safe. I didn't have access to it for three months. When I look back now, I realise my wellbeing must have been really low, but I have a good level of resilience. Maybe my experiences there helped build it up.

What was your favourite Middle East project?

Building Muscat Airport. I loved it. I loved taking on (project manager) Bechtel and winning most of my battles. I also enjoyed working with the contractor, Enka, a huge Turkish company. Once I understood that their way of debating was to shout and fight, I got on really well with them. They were lovely people.

Oman was also a wonderful place to live and work. My wife came out – that was a wonderful time. I had a really good position, great colleagues and we had a good social life.

How did health and safety differ in the Middle East compared to the UK?

Every single country in the Middle East is different. While some of the big projects such as Dubai Expo or the World Cup in Qatar are quite progressive, the general approach is to take UK or US legislation, repurpose it and then look at it as black and white.

In the UK we have gone through several changes in managing health and safety. We had years of prescriptive legislation, then we moved to cultural strategies and behavioural safety. Now we are all

looking for the next step change or improvement. I believe in doing the basics brilliantly first then using different strategies to build on that, which centre on listening and engaging.

Why did you come back?

For my three grandsons – Joey, who is seven now, Oscar, who is 10, and Lewis, who is 14. They kept asking “When are you coming home, Grandad?” I had got to that point.

What do you do now?

I am a package SHE manager on Regional Delivery Programme North for Costain. We are delivering over £1bn worth of work for National Highways. I live 10 minutes from the office, a maximum of 20 minutes from any of the jobs, managing a large SHE team on massive infrastructure works and I love it.

When I first came back to the UK, I went back to Summers-Inman. I had left on good terms and spent four more happy years with them. But I was

doing a lot of travelling and decided, with my wife, that I needed a job with minimal commuting and travelling.

What do you like about your job?

I like the day-to-day involvement, being able to influence what happens from a health, safety and welfare point of view. When I was in a construction consultancy, I was dipping in and out, not having a direct influence. Here, I report directly to a director which gives me the opportunity to influence things from strategic point of view too.

My view is that if we get health and safety right so that no one gets hurt, everything else we do, from a quality, programme and cost point of view, will fall into place.

Looking back, what did your time overseas teach you?

It definitely made me a more rounded person. I learned so much from all the other cultures about how people treat each other, how to compromise more without losing

Muscat Airport in Oman was Shiels' favourite project while working in the Middle East

CV: Malcolm Shiels

- Package SHE manager – Regional Delivery Programme North from 2020
- Four years with Summers-Inman from 2016
- Six years in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar as HSE manager on multiple projects
- Nine years working in UK consultancies Hall & Partners, Faithful+Gould and Summers-Inman
- Worked as a site manager for North Tyneside Council
- Started work at 16 as an apprentice street mason paviour

out. I learned how to give everyone the same level of thought and respect.

We are all judgemental but I became better at being less judgemental when I watched what different cultures did. ●



A broader view of inclusive design

We often think of inclusive design in terms of physical disabilities, but there are many more considerations, says **Ed Warner**



Ed Warner
Motionspot



Biophilic design
is a feature of
Barclays' campus

Inclusive design helps improve access and reduce exclusion for people, by designing environments and products that accommodate the needs, desires and aspirations of every person. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development suggests that an inclusive approach to designing living spaces, everyday products and workplaces allows individuals to interact with other people more empathetically and positively, leading to increased productivity and satisfaction in every aspect of life.

In the UK one in five people have a disability, which equates to 14.1 million individuals. Only 8% of those are wheelchair users, meaning that the remaining 92% will have another physical, cognitive or sensory disability which will also need addressing in the design process.

And while there are currently over 350 technical documents across Europe and the UK that support architects and designers in designing for physical accessibility, there is very little guidance on how to design for employees and visitors with sensory and cognitive disabilities, neurodivergent groups or different faiths and genders.

The first step in creating inclusive spaces is to acknowledge exclusion. A people-first approach helps designers to appreciate the different needs and desires of those who will use the space. This spans gender, race, age and disability as you would expect, but also LGBTQIA+ communities, people with specific religious or spirituality habits and as wide a range as possible of underrepresented minority groups and their intersections.

This approach should continue through the delivery stage and into facility maintenance, resulting in more inclusive buildings and spaces that reduce exclusion and foster equity for everyone. This is because

“Inclusive design produces universally appealing environments as well as providing long-term cost savings by avoiding the need for future retrofits

inclusive design produces universally appealing environments as well as providing long-term cost savings by avoiding the need for expensive and environmentally damaging retrofits and adaptations in the future.

Pre-arrival

Many people begin their visit long before they arrive. For example, it can save time and worry for wheelchair users to know if level access is provided into and throughout a building, including accessible WCs and a dropped kerb at the front drop-off area.

Someone with an assistance dog could benefit from knowing the location of the nearest dog spending facilities in the area. Anxieties for some people with neurodivergence may be eased prior to arrival through advanced room booking systems based on an individual's preferred room location, size, layout and audio-visual (AV) offerings.

Locating the entrance

A prominent feature at the main entrance – such as a sculpture – can act as a visual wayfinding landmark. Fountains or scented planting, for instance, provide audible and olfactory cues. The aim of such a feature should be for intrigue and invitation, rather than overstimulation.

Directional signage should be provided at any decision-making points on approach to the building and be large enough to be visible from a distance. Mixed-case, sans serif letters that contrast well against their background can be particularly ►

Case study: Designing for neurodiversity, especially autism

Motionspot helped to develop an inclusive and accessible workplace environment for Barclays' new Glasgow campus



The Barclays development in Tradeston, Glasgow

Motionspot worked with architect Gensler and Barclays' wider design team to deliver an inclusive workplace for 5,000 employees and visitors in Glasgow.

The brief was to create a built environment that responds to people with physical, cognitive and sensory impairments, including designing for neurodiversity, with a particular focus on autism.

This has been achieved by focusing on features and small details which make the building genuinely inclusive.

These include:

- recalibration rooms for employees with sensory needs;
- Changing Places rooms, which have additional space for assistants and specialist equipment;
- washroom hand dryers with reduced decibel levels to make the experience less jarring for autistic people;

- door handles specified for people with limited dexterity;
- floor and wall finishes that give the necessary contrast for visitors and employees with a cognitive or visual disability;
- a focus on the design of lighting and acoustics for building users with visual and/or hearing impairments; and
- the use of biophilic design and natural materials to help reduce anxiety.

Motionspot is now working with Barclays to roll out these inclusive design standards for all Barclays offices.

Ron Coghill, director, major projects delivery lead at Barclays, said: “The Glasgow project has paved the way for future developments, enabling Barclays, in collaboration with Motionspot, to achieve world-leading accessible design standards and create spaces that are truly inclusive for all.”



helpful for people with dyslexia and are easier to read than capital letters for most people, including older people and those with vision impairments, as we more quickly identify words based on their shape.

A canopy at the entrance can also aid identification while protecting people from the elements while waiting for a taxi or gathering themselves before entering the building.

Entering the building

The entrance to a building can create an initial barrier for many people. Slip-resistant and smooth paving is best to enable a safe approach to the building.

If the main entrance to a building has stairs that cannot be removed or

altered to enable level access to all, an additional equitable option should be provided, such as a ramp, platform lift or Sesame lift. Where stairs are present, everyone, including people with vision or cognitive impairments, should be able to easily gauge the extent of each step through visually contrasting nosing along the front and top of each riser and tread.

Entrance doors should be easy to find and use. Visual contrast of doors with surrounding finishes enables immediate identification by those approaching the building. Manually operated revolving doors can present several challenges, for example for wheelchair users, people using crutches, pulling luggage or someone accompanied by an assistance dog. ►

Motionspot worked with Derwent London on access to its 80 Charlotte Street building

Useful guidance on inclusive design

BS 8300-2:2018 *Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment*

Part 2 of this British Standard provides recommendations on the inclusive and accessible design of different building types. Part 1 of the same British Standard makes recommendations for the provision of inclusive external environments.

PAS: *Design for the mind – Neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide*

This publication is still in draft form (6463, 2021-09-30). However, it usefully provides guidance and recommendations towards designing and managing mindful environments that will accommodate the neurological variations that all people experience.

Access to and use of buildings: *Approved Document M, Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellings*

This approved document aims to ensure that people can access and use a building with ease. It covers various topics such as entrances, stairs, lifts and external and internal horizontal circulation.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Civil Engineering and Architectural Design

Zallio M, Clarkson PJ (2021).

“A canopy at the entrance can aid identification while protecting people from the elements while gathering themselves before entering



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“**Lighting is important. Having evenly distributed, well-lit circulation routes with minimal glare can reduce anxiety**

Two sets of automated double doors separated by an internal lobby along with clear signage for entry and exit have wider utility while still minimising heat loss.

Circulation

Several considerations can help to create a comfortable environment when traversing around a building – for example, corridor widths and configuration and the positioning of fixtures such as door handles and temperature controls.

Consider the inclusion of practical maps which indicate where someone is situated and face in the same direction of travel. Audio information can also be provided through QR codes and a range of digital wayfinding apps.

Lighting is important. It plays a big part in supporting people to distinguish between features. Having evenly distributed, well-lit circulation routes with minimal glare can reduce anxiety.

Flooring transitions can provide a subtle wayfinding tool. However, to someone with a vision or cognitive impairment, they may appear as a change in level if the transition is significantly contrasting. Bold patterns should be avoided as they can present a barrier to some people with sensory conditions, distorting distance perception or creating visual discomfort. They can also be distracting in areas where lip-reading is required.

Evacuation

Lifts and stairs must be easy to locate, especially those that can be used for emergency evacuation.

Audible and visual alarms should be provided in key areas where people may spend time alone. Space allowing, refuges in protected lobbies or stairwells should be clearly designated for anyone requiring evacuation assistance to wait. Personal and general emergency evacuation planning provision is critical, particularly where older or rented building spaces limit certain building adaptations. ● **Ed Warner is founder and CEO of access and inclusive design specialist Motionspot.**



An accessible kitchenette in the Barclays Glasgow campus is clearly lit and labelled

CPD Questions

1) Which guidance would someone refer to, to meet minimum access standards for a building other than a dwelling in the UK?

- a) *Protection from falling, collision and impact: Approved Document K*
- b) *Access to and use of buildings: Approved Document M, Volume 2*
- c) *Accessible Sports Facilities, Sport England 2010*
- d) *Visit England's National Accessible Scheme for serviced, self-catering, hostel and campus accommodation*

2) Why is it important to ensure that key surfaces such as floors and walls contrast with one another sufficiently?

- a) *To make a space appear more welcoming to everyone*
- b) *To accommodate people's different visual stimulation preferences*
- c) *To reduce visual noise and confusion*

d) *To ensure that people can identify the extent of and features within a space*

3) Which of the following directional signage formats could be inclusive to the widest range of building users?

- a) *CAPS LOCK in navy blue Times New Roman font, size 9 on a grey background*
- b) *Capital letter followed by lower case letters in black Arial font, size 14 on a white background*
- c) *Capital letter followed by lower case letters in black Calibri font, size 100+ on a white background*
- d) *Capital letter followed by lower case letters in navy blue Comic Sans, size 48 on a yellow background*

4) When approaching a building, what purpose can a canopy serve in terms of inclusive design?

- a) *To aid entrance identification and provide*

a place for people to pause when entering and exiting
b) *To give shelter for smokers*
c) *To indicate the location of the revolving entrance doors*
d) *To enable even distribution of lighting at the entrance*

5) What management considerations should be made for inclusive evacuation in the event of an emergency?

- a) *If the building is designed inclusively, all building users should be able to exit independently*
- b) *Every individual should have a personalised emergency evacuation plan*
- c) *Anyone that needs support to evacuate a building should have a personal emergency evacuation plan*
- d) *Visual alarms should be installed in all communal areas*

To test yourself on the questions and collect CPD points, go to: projectsafetyjournal.com

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Q&A: New PPE regs and limb (b) workers

What is in the amended PPE regulations, who are 'limb (b) workers' and do they work in construction? **PSJ** explains

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 2022 came into effect on 6 April 2022. Construction employers must now provide suitable personal protective equipment (PPE), where there is a health and safety risk to all workers they use, not just employees.

"These amended regulations follow a High Court ruling that the UK had

failed to implement an EU directive on minimum health and safety requirements in the workplace," says Emma Burrows, partner and head of employment at Trowers & Hamlin.

"Under the amended regulations, everyone defined as 'limb (b) workers' must be treated the same as those with employment contracts when it comes to the provision of PPE."

What is a limb (b) worker?

A limb (b) worker is an individual who works under a contract for another party. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on limb (b) workers states that they will generally carry out casual or irregular work for one or more organisations and will only carry out work if they choose to.



“The key message is that, unless a worker is genuinely self-employed, the organisation will have to provide free PPE if a risk assessment deems this to be necessary

Emma Burrows, Trowers & Hamlins

Sometimes known as ‘gig workers’, people carrying out this kind of work are commonly associated with organisations such as Uber and Deliveroo.

Burrows says: “As the HSE guidance makes clear, every employment relationship will be specific to the individual and the employer, and so the precise status of any worker can only be determined by a court or tribunal.

“The duty to provide PPE will not apply to those who are genuinely self-employed.”

How many limb (b) workers are in construction?

That is difficult to determine. However, it’s worth noting the responses to the consultation on the proposed extension of the PPE regs. Of the organisations who said they employed limb (b) workers, more than a third were from the construction industry.

So, there are likely to be many casual workers on construction sites, who are hired as and when they are required. They will typically work in trades such as painting, M&E, demolition and scaffolding. There will also be numerous agency workers who are covered by the amended PPE regulations. The construction employer will need to determine the status of all these workers.

Burrows says: “The key message is that, unless a worker is genuinely self-employed, the organisation will have to provide free PPE if a risk assessment deems this to be necessary.”

How is PPE defined in the amended regs?

PPE is defined as “all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects the person against one or more risks to that person’s health or safety, and any addition or accessory designed to meet that objective”.

Burrows adds: “The HSE guidance points out that PPE should be regarded as the last resort to protect against risks to health and safety, and engineering controls and safe systems of work should be considered first.”

What practical measures should construction employers take?

Burrows says: “Construction employers should consider if the workers they use fall under the limb (b) definition discussed above. Most workers will. In which case, employers must ensure they carry out the necessary risk assessments on these workers.

“If this indicates that any worker requires PPE, then the employer will have to carry out a PPE suitability assessment and provide the PPE free of charge in the same way as they do for employees.

“The PPE must be compatible, maintained, correctly stored and properly used following adequate training and instruction, so it will be up to the employer to make sure that proper training and instruction is given.

“It should also instruct both workers and employees that if their PPE is lost or becomes defective this should be reported to the employer straight away.

What about agency workers?

The duty to provide PPE extends to any agency workers. But the government has said that the ‘end user business’, in other words the organisation managing the construction work, will be in the best position to provide these workers with PPE.

“Agency workers have a contract with the employment business supplying them so it will be the responsibility of that employment business to provide the PPE free of charge,” explains Burrows.

“The logistics of this are potentially challenging and attracted some comments in the consultation which the government issued in relation to the extension of the duty to provide PPE. The government acknowledged in its response that the ‘end-user business’ will generally be in the best position to manage the provision of PPE as they will direct the work and control the premises where it takes place.

“Communication between the employment business and the end-user business will be key.” ●

Opposite: PPE must be correctly stored and maintained

Below: The duty to provide PPE extends to any agency workers



Falls from height: an ongoing problem

This month's round-up of prosecutions focuses on falls from height, which continue to cause a significant proportion of the industry's deaths and injuries

Deaths and injuries due to falls from height remain a huge issue for the construction industry. This month we have devoted our round-up of recent prosecutions to falls from height, with the number and range of incidents providing a snapshot of the issue.

Statistics compiled by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) confirm the extent of the problem: between 2016/17 and 2020/21, 50% of all deaths in construction were due to falls from height. Looking at injuries, between 2018/19 and 2020/21, 33% of accidents leading to

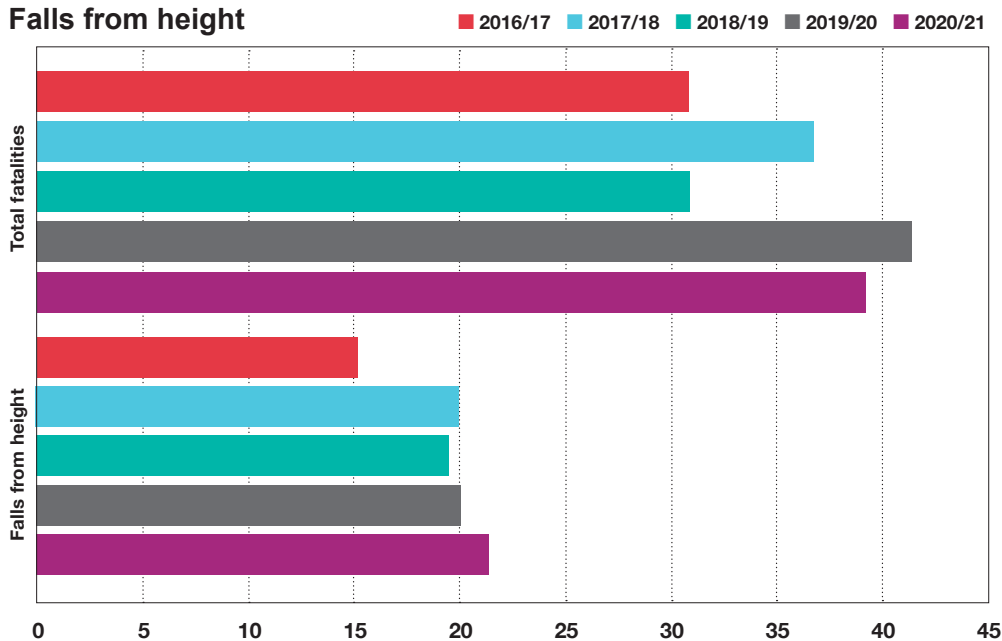
specified injuries, such as fractures or crushes, were due to falls from height as were 11% of the over-seven-day injuries. This was the same for the previous three years.

Common scenarios for falls include incorrect use of equipment or no equipment at all. For instance, one of the cases reported on (see box, right) saw two bricklayers forced to construct a working platform of bricks and planks, which subsequently fell, taking them with it. Another saw a mobile platform incorrectly configured so that there was a single rather than a double guard rail.

Falls from scaffolding are also common. One of the recent prosecutions involved a labourer who fell through a gap between scaffold and roof. Although the contractor had made efforts to protect the gap between roof and scaffold in most places, one stretch was not adequately protected, resulting in the accident.

Falls through fragile surfaces, particularly fibre-cement roofs and rooflights, are another constantly recurring theme. A recently prosecuted case saw an untrained labourer, who was working unpaid to gain experience, fall through a skylight, suffering serious injuries.

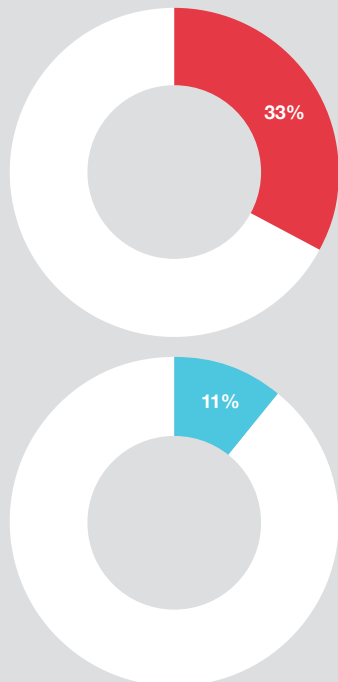
Falls from height



Source: RIDFATAL www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridfatal.xls

Work-related falls from height in 2020/21

■ % of specified injuries
■ % of over-seven-day injuries



Source: Construction Statistics in Great Britain 2021

The RIDDOR statistics don't record the size of the companies involved, just whether workers are employed or self-employed. However, it does appear that many fatalities and accidents due to falls from height involve small firms working on domestic or small commercial refurbishment and repair work.

Although not included in our round-up, there have been three prosecutions so far this year which demonstrated a total disdain for the Work at Height Regulations and for safety. One contractor was fined after a member of the public spotted two roofers working on the roof of a multi-storey building with no safety measures at all to prevent falls. A similar case involved roofers replacing tiles on a bungalow, again with no protection whatsoever. And a third case saw a builder receive and ignore three prohibition notices for breaches of the Work at Height Regulations – along with other failings.

As construction safety professionals, it is almost impossible to directly influence this part of the industry. Perhaps the only course of action is to do as those members of the public did: take photos and report poor practice to the HSE. ●

22

Fatalities from falls from height during the year 2020/21

50

Percentage of construction deaths due to falls from height between 2016/17 and 2020/21

In the dock

All these prosecutions from the last quarter relate to falls from height

Labourer falls through gap in scaffolding

Infiniti Roofing and Construction of Scarborough was fined £22,667 and ordered to pay £7,228 in costs by York Magistrates' Court after an employee fell 3m through a gap in scaffolding while working on a building at Havers Hill, Eastfield, Scarborough. He landed on a roof below, dislocating his wrist and breaking a bone in his hand which has required several operations. Edge protection in the area where he was working, moving insulation panels, was not in place.

Fall after makeshift platform collapses

Manchester Magistrates' Court fined H Cumberbitch & Son £36,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,824 after a makeshift platform collapsed, causing two bricklayers to fall eight feet (2.4m) on to a concrete floor in Over Alderley, Cheshire. The first man sustained fractured ribs, severe bruising and a large wound to his leg, while the second man sustained severe bruising to his knees. The bricklayers were building a parapet but had been given no safe means to do so.

Life-threatening injuries from platform collapse

Civil engineering company Able UK was fined £200,000 with £20,991.24 costs by Teesside Magistrates' Court after a worker suffered life-threatening injuries after falling 15m when a platform unexpectedly collapsed. Able UK was dismantling former North Sea oil and gas platform Brent Bravo but had not understood the condition and configuration of the structure when planning the work.

Fall through skylight

Roofing contractor Ian Davey (trading as Exe Fibreglass) was given a 12-month community order, which includes 80 hours of unpaid work, and ordered to pay costs of £3,000 by Plymouth Magistrates' Court after an unpaid casual labourer fell through a skylight. The labourer, who wanted work experience, stepped on to a fragile skylight during the renovation of

an asbestos cement roof on an industrial building in Exeter. He fell 5.5m on to the floor below, sustaining multiple fractures to his hand and wrist, which required surgical wiring to repair, and also fractures to his ribs.

Scaffolding fall causes life-changing injuries

Zendrill of Gillingham, Kent was fined £16,667 and ordered to pay costs of £6,767 and a victim surcharge of £170 by Brighton Magistrates' Court after a worker fell while dismantling scaffolding. He fell 8m in total, first landing on the roof of the property below, before rolling down and on to the ground, sustaining two brain haemorrhages, six vertebra fractures, a fractured shoulder blade and multiple rib fractures. Zendrill had not properly planned the work and the worker did not have the right type of harness.

Death due to fall from roof

AJM Services (Midlands) of Llanfihangel, Llanfyllin, Powys was fined £51,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 by Liverpool Crown Court after a worker fell through a roof to his death. The worker was standing on an old roof made of fragile asbestos cement sheets to snag a new roof which had been installed, when it gave way and he fell through to the ground below, sustaining fatal injuries. The owner of the building, Pearsons Glass of Maddrell Street, Liverpool, had been fined £80,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,656 at an earlier hearing.

Fatal fall from mobile tower

Peter Saunders Builders of Cambridge was fined £16,000 with £5,139.80 costs by Cambridge Magistrates' Court after a worker fell from a mobile platform, dying three months later. The worker was using a crowbar to lever up a beam so that packers could be placed under it when he caught his jacket sleeve and fell over a single guard rail. The tower was not suitable for the task. Had it been configured correctly, a double guard rail could have been used.



Keeping members up to date

The APS training and events programme will run through the summer, with sessions on the Building Safety Act and other legislation affecting the built environment

The Association for Project Safety is committed to putting on relevant and timely education and training events helping keep members up to date with developments in construction. The aim is to shape and share good practice across the APS community. We are determined to keep bringing you – as part of your annual membership subscription – the events you seem to love.

Summer season of CPD

Our summer season will run from May until early July. We are going to be looking at infrastructure, providing thought-provoking online sessions covering areas such as unexploded ordnance, smart motorways, rail replacement and designing and building prisons.

“We are going to be looking at infrastructure, providing thought-provoking online sessions covering areas such as unexploded ordnance, smart motorways, rail replacement and designing and building prisons

There will also be the usual ad hoc topical webinars we hope you will enjoy. The season will kick off with an introduction from Ray Bone who will be taking over the APS presidency in October. Check out the dates and speakers at: www.aps.org.uk/events.

Topical specials

We know it is important to you that you have up-to-date information on breaking news so we are planning to include three additional webinars.

The first will be providing an update from APS on what the future of education and training is shaping up to look like at the association and how we will be doing more to support you all. Then there is a round-up of any new legislative proposals that touch on the built environment from the Queen's Speech. This may turn out to be a very short session!

And we will finish off with a round table where we look at practical aspects arising from the Building Safety Act, what it means for you and how APS is planning to support its members.

Remember! There is no extra cost to you for this as we include these events in your annual subscriptions. Keep your eyes on the website for more details.

Past events

Missed an webinar or CPD recently? Don't worry, as a member of APS you can play back past events on the APS website at your leisure. Costs are covered in your membership, so you are free to browse and watch anytime you like. Non-members can also catch up for a nominal fee on anything they have missed.

Our recent series of webinars on diversity and inclusion can all be found there, plus the last CPD session on general health issues.

Simply log into the APS website with your membership details and click into the resources section: here you will find all past APS events. ●

Save the date: Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8 September 2022

The APS national conference is always now held on the first Wednesday of every September.

This flagship event aims to bring together industry experts who can bring a mix of in-depth knowledge to the issues of the day as well as a personal perspective on the state of the industry.

There will be individual speakers and industry panels as well as opportunities for you to participate in breakout sessions of your choice.

The annual conference runs immediately after our AGM so you can also get involved with the day-to-day oversight of your association and see what we have been doing over the previous year.

Look out for all our ever-changing programme of APS events at: www.aps.org.uk/events.

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