

NEW CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER ACT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH & SAFETY



NLT Training Services is advising companies across the region to check and, if necessary, update their Health & Safety procedures, as the new Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act comes into force.

From April 6th 2008, the Act creates the new statutory offence of corporate manslaughter, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and corporate homicide in Scotland, meaning that companies will be faced with prosecution if they are found to have caused a person's death due to failings in health and safety in the workplace.

Health & Safety Training Advisor, Peter Minto, from NLT Training Services explains: In the past, the law linked a company's guilt to the gross negligence of an individual who was said to be the embodiment of the company, making it difficult to prosecute large organisations where there are many individuals at this level. The new Act addresses this difficulty by focusing on the way in which a company's activities are managed or organised by senior management, rather than it being reliant on one individual's failings.

He continues: The new Corporate Manslaughter Act provides a real wake up call for companies who have not reviewed their Health & Safety practices recently, or who do not already have any in place. It is crucial that organisations comply with relevant Health & Safety legislation so that proper standards are met and employees are provided with safe working environments.

Under the Act, companies will be guilty of the new offence if the way in which its activities are managed or organised by senior management amounts to gross breach of the duty of care it owes to its employees, the public or an individual.

Penalties include an unlimited fine, remedial orders which would require an organisation to remedy any management failure that led to death, and publicity orders, which the court can impose to publicise the fact that the company has been convicted of the offence.

Peter Minto continues: It is hoped that by allowing a more effective way of prosecuting companies who cause death by failing to meet Health & Safety standards and by imposing these penalties, that it will be an incentive for companies to improve Health & Safety standards and provide their employees with a safe environment in which to work.

NLT Training Services have offices in Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, and offer an extensive range of health and safety training courses including; NEBOSH General Health & Safety Certificate, IOSH Managing Safely, IOSH Working Safely, CIEH Principles of Manual Handling, CIEH Risk Assessment, CIEH Principles of COSHH, Slings & Lifting Techniques and Abrasive Wheel Safety.

The company also provides health & safety audits for businesses, for more information or to receive an information pack, call 0845 40 80 378