

Legislation Outlook

December 2024



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, ISO 22301, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001 systems. We will provide advance warning about important legislation that will affect compliance with these standards, including relevant news, newly published guidance and government consultations, and any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed, which may potentially impact your organisation. We don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees, we only report on items of value.

Our next Legislation Outlook will be published slightly later than normal following the festive holidays; in the meantime, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

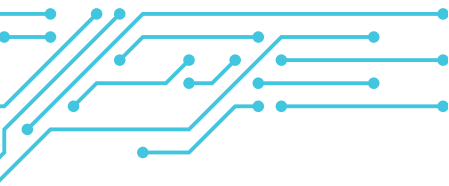
Updated Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024

These Regulations come into force on 1st June 2025 and prohibit the sale of single-use vapes in England. The Regulations make it an offence to supply, or offer to supply, single-use vapes in the course of a business. Penalties for initial offences include stop notices, fixed penalty fines or compliance notices, or enforcement undertakings. Failure to comply with enforcement undertakings can lead to a criminal proceeding being brought against the individual. Failure to comply with other notices can lead to unlimited fines or prison sentences.

A similar prohibition is coming into force in Scotland on 1st April 2025. Wales and Northern Ireland plan to introduce a similar ban from 1st June 2025; we will confirm this once the legislation has been published.



ISO 45001

Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

These Regulations come into force on 6th May 2025 and make amendments to the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. The amendments update the rules for fire safety in buildings in Northern Ireland, by requiring developers working on new building projects or alterations to existing buildings to:

- provide adequate fire safety information where work is carried out on premises containing one or more flats, which must be provided to the person with responsibility for fire safety at the premises by the date of completion; and
- install suitable automatic fire suppression systems, such as sprinklers, in new buildings over 11 metres high that contain either flats or student accommodations, and new residential care premises.



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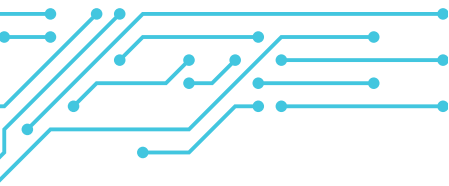
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News

Safety Notice: Laboratory Staff in Diagnostic Laboratories

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has issued a safety notice due to incidents where workers at diagnostic laboratories are being put at risk of infection because of missing information on specimen request forms. The HSE have advised that duty holders must:



ensure that specimen request forms contain all relevant clinical information by:

- highlighting to clinical staff the importance of capturing clinical details that may increase the likelihood of Hazard Group 3 biological agents being present in patient samples, including recent history of foreign travel, contact with imported animals (in particular dogs from Eastern Europe), association with an outbreak scenario, and consumption of unpasteurised milk products;
- having clear guidelines in place for the completion of specimen request forms; and
- training clinical staff in the completion of specimen request forms, and consider refresher training;

ensure that laboratory staff act on clinical information provided by:

- training staff to identify key clinical information, and consider refresher training;
- having procedures in place for processing samples which may contain Hazard Group 3 agents; and
- implementing a system to link different specimens from the same patient, so that relevant clinical information is associated with all samples from one individual, and appropriate containment steps can be taken in the laboratory; and

ensure that record-keeping and IT systems are fit for purpose by:

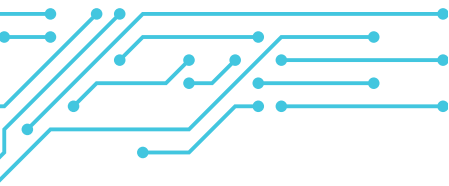
- capturing relevant clinical details, for example by creating mandatory fields related to travel history or other key clinical information;
- allowing lab staff to easily view relevant clinical information; and
- alerting lab staff when further information becomes available to clinical staff which could affect laboratory risk assessments or processes.



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HSE Publishes Statistics for 2023/2024

The HSE has released its annual statistics for work-related ill health and workplace injuries for the 2023/24 period. Key findings include:

- **Work-Related Ill Health:** Approximately 1.7 million workers reported suffering from work-related ill health, a figure consistent with the previous year's 1.8 million. Notably, around half of these cases were attributed to stress, depression, or anxiety, totalling an estimated 776,000 cases. While this number remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, it has decreased from 910,000 cases in 2022/23.
- **Workplace Injuries:** The data indicates that 138 workers were fatally injured in work-related accidents during 2023/24. Additionally, 604,000 workers sustained self-reported non-fatal injuries within the same timeframe.
- **Economic Impact:** The estimated annual cost of workplace injuries and new cases of work-related ill health for 2022/23 was £21.6 billion, reflecting a decrease of £1.6 billion compared to 2021/22.

The HSE's Chief Executive Sarah Albon highlighted that, despite significant progress over the past 50 years, these statistics underscore the need for continued efforts to enhance workplace safety and health across Great Britain.

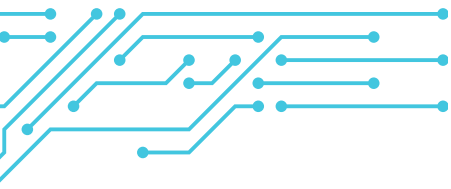
More information on the health and safety statistics can be found [here](#).

Guidance

Tree Planting Guidance

Forest Research, in partnership with the University of Reading, have published [guidance](#) on tree planting for farmers and foresters. The Tree Species Guide for UK Agroforestry Systems provides information on 33 different species of trees and shrubs suitable for planting in UK agroforestry systems. This guide will help inform farmers' tree species selections based on the individual needs and conditions of the farm.

There are a wide a range of grants available to farmers to support planting and maintaining trees on agricultural land, including the Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes which pay farmers and land managers for delivering significant and important outcomes for the climate and environment alongside food production, and the ELM which provides support and assistance for land managers in planning, creating, improving and managing agroforestry systems.



Consultation

Working Together Consultation

The Environment Agency (EA) has launched a consultation seeking views on its process of updating river basin management plans, which are due to be updated in 2027. This process may be influenced by potential legislative changes following an independent commission into the water sector. Through the consultation, the EA seeks input on whether it has engaged the right organizations, identified the key strategies, and provided sufficient opportunities for collaboration. Stakeholders are invited to share feedback to help improve engagement and ensure effective management of the water environment, contributing to stronger collective outcomes.

This consultation closes on the 14th May 2024.

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