



Important News

12th October 2007

To: BFFF Health & Safety Contacts

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND CORPORATE HOMICIDE ACT 2007

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 is a landmark in law. For the first time, companies and organisations can be found guilty of corporate manslaughter as a result of serious management failures resulting in a gross breach of a duty of care.

The Act, which will come into force on **6th April 2008**, clarifies the criminal liabilities of companies including large organisations where serious failures in the management of health and safety result in a fatality.

HSE states that they welcome and support the Act. Although the new offence is not part of health and safety law, it will introduce an important new element in the corporate management of health and safety.

The Ministry of Justice leads on the Act and more information is available on its web page <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporatemanslaughter2007.htm>

Further guidance for Directors

As additional support, BFFF members will be interested to hear that HSE has recently published a series of web pages dedicated to providing Leadership guidance for all directors, governors, trustees and their equivalents in the private, public and third sectors. The guidance applies to organisations of all sizes and provides a range of resources to help organisations:

- Find the best ways for the company to lead and promote health and safety; and
- Meet the directors and organisations legal obligations

The guidance web pages are available directly via: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/leadership/index.htm>

**BFFF
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