



# [Inside this issue]

# AUG/SEPT\_08

FEATURES ▶▶▶ LEGAL ▶▶▶ DILEMMA ▶▶▶ NEWS ▶▶▶ RESEARCH ▶▶▶ BRIEFING ▶▶▶ DIARY

- 03 LEADER**  
**Twenty years on** Two decades after Piper Alpha, an HSE report suggests offshore safety is not up to scratch
- 04 NEWS**  
 ... working time agreement ... vocational rehabilitation ... compensation for asbestos sufferers ... OH involvement most effective in rehab ... Rolls-Royce considers OH outsourcing ... health and wellbeing tools ... too 'fat' to fight fires – overweight fireman dismissed ... exercise while you work ... right to training ... £50 billion bill for mental ill health ... assessing risk – latest European Agency campaign ... ongoing mental health hampers RTW ... food handlers – NHS Plus guidelines ... safety of nanotechnologies ... associative disability is covered by directive – ECJ ruling in *Coleman v Attridge Law*
- 12 LEGAL NEWS**  
 ... less favourable treatment – *Malcolm v Lewisham LBC*
- 14 FEATURE**  
**Recuperative and restricted duties**  
 Some operational managers in the police and fire services argue that recuperative and restricted duties are putting pressure on their ability to protect the public, while others are concerned that they are running out of suitable positions to accommodate disabled personnel. Nicola Godwin speaks to managers, OH and policy makers.
- 19 FEATURE**  
**Within REACH**  
 Mike Ellwood outlines manufacturers' and importers' duties to develop exposure scenarios under the European REACH legislation, and explains how the required chemical safety assessment process will work in practice.
- 24 FEATURE**  
**Dealing with difficult issues**  
 OH professionals will be all too familiar with difficult and sensitive issues arising when assessing fitness for work, or fitness for a disciplinary hearing. In the first of a series on difficult issues, Alan Black explains how to get it right.
- 28 CONFERENCE REPORT**  
**Planning for future risk**  
 Occupational health and safety practitioners should be planning ahead for the future impact of changing risks: from obesity and the ageing workforce to nanotechnology and airborne dust control. John Ballard reports from the annual British Occupational Hygiene Society conference.
- 32 EXPERT WITNESS**  
**Whose fault was it?**  
 In establishing negligence for an accident or injury it is important to establish the 'chain of causation'. Diana Kloss explains the legal principles on foreseeability, and how a 'supervening event' can break the chain.
- 34 RESEARCH DIGEST**  
 .. being slightly overweight is best for firefighters ... bullying and incivility ... the business case ... cultural differences significantly affect illness behaviour ... multiple vaccinations in military personnel ... depression at work ... PTSD therapy ... downstream risks for semiconductor recycling ... history of absence predicts future absence ... viral hepatitis
- 38 RESEARCH PLUS**  
 Our compendium of published evidence on occupational health.
- 40 BOOKSHELF & DIARY**  
 ... controlling skin exposure ... occupational health nursing... key events in occupational health and safety
- 41 CLASSIFIEDS**  
 ... MSc courses
- 43 BRIEFING**  
 ... your need-to-know guide to this issue