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PR & Media Centre

HeadCount Services makes it simple for businesses to comply with new fire safety rules

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HeadCount Services has launched a new 'e-learning' package to help businesses to comply with new fire safety rules which came into force in England and Wales on 1st October 2006.

Previous fire legislation affecting businesses has been consolidated into the Fire Safety Reform Order, which aims to make regulations easier to understand and comply with, as well as reducing death, injury and damage caused by fire. The legislation affects employers or self-employed individuals who are responsible for business premises and replaces the previous issuing of fire certificates.

Each workplace requires a 'responsible person' who has to ensure compliance with the Order – this is typically the employer or site manager. Compliance requires the responsible person to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of fire by conducting an assessment and to ensure everyone on a site can safely escape from a fire. Training for the nominated responsible person and all employees in a workplace needs to be carried out to ensure safe working practices.

HeadCount Services has worked with a renowned Health and Safety training provider to develop a distance e-learning programme suitable for all types of business. The course has been developed by fire safety professionals and incorporates the latest fire procedures to provide a comprehensive overview. Topics range from understanding the implications of the new legislation, identifying fire hazards, evacuation procedures and use of extinguishers.

E-learning allows each employee to work through the fire safety course in their own time using their PC, it lets employees re-visit sections and also tests knowledge and understanding by asking for answers to sets of questions during the course. There is also a learning management system provided allowing the course administrator to check employee progress, and to chase up employees who still needed to complete the course.

Maria Mason, sales manager, HeadCount Services commented:

“All businesses need to comply with the new Order and provide information to employees. E-learning is ideal as it provides all employees with the same high standards of training and reduces training costs as employees do not have to leave the workplace. Our course provides businesses with a cost-effective and comprehensive solution to address the requirements of the Order.”

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