



The Health and Safety (Offences) Act comes into force on 16 January, quadrupling the maximum fine for minor health and safety breaches from £5,000 to £20,000!

Lawyers warn that when the new legislation is introduced careless workers and their bosses are more likely to go to prison than muggers. Changes in law will mean that serious breaches of health and safety rules that were previously punished with a fine could now result in a sentence of up to two years.

The new laws have been put in place in order to encourage businesses to pay closer attention to health and safety matters. According to the British Safety Council, last year over 200 people were killed at work in the UK as a result of health and safety neglect.

From mid January the Health and Safety Offences Act 2008 will allow courts to enforce greater powers of sentencing as well as the increase fines where it is seen as necessary.

**Are your records up to date and inline with health and safety legislation?
Wondering what an SME should do to protect itself?**

Call Dave Bowles on 0845 053 3666 or email dave.bowles@hsdept.co.uk

