



The HSE Health & Safety Law Poster has changed, SO WHAT?

SO WHAT...?! It's not the attitude you've come to expect from qsuk. 'We pay you to care', our clients will be exclaiming ...

It was one of those official looking brown envelopes that caught our attention, stating 'Health & Safety Law Notice' ... 'Legal Notice' ... 'Action Required' ... OK, must be important, we'll open it.

Did we know that the HSE H&S Law Poster has changed, the letter inside asked. Well, yes we did, but thanks for the reminder. 'BY LAW' ... it went on 'The HSE says' ... 'Failure to comply' ... and then 'SPECIAL OFFER' – their message was spend £30 and you can stop worrying.

But we don't need to spend £30, and you don't need to either, not until 2014 anyway. That's what it failed to say.

We knew the HSE Poster was changing some time ago, and informed all of our clients back in April's Newsletter. The letter we received was from a supplier of H&S products and was using just the sort of scaremongering tactics that H&S really doesn't need. It's not qsuk's approach.

The facts are that from 6th April this year, the HSE is publishing new versions of its approved H&S Poster. The new versions are improved, but the point is **employers can, if they wish, continue to use their existing versions of Poster and leaflets until 5th April 2014**, as long as they're readable and the addresses of the enforcing authority and the Employment Medical Advisory Service are up to date.

April 2014 – that just under 5 years – so no rush then to 'click and buy'.

Here's what qsuk's April's newsletter said:

From 6th April 2009, the HSE is publishing new versions of its approved health and safety poster and leaflet.

The new versions are eye-catching and easy to read. They set out in simple terms, using numbered lists of basic points, what employers and workers must do, and tell you what to do if there is a problem.

Employers can, if they wish, continue to use their existing versions of poster and leaflet until 5th April 2014, as long as they are readable and the addresses of the enforcing authority and the Employment Medical Advisory Service are up to date. This information can be obtained from HSE's Infoline on 0845 345 0055.

The leaflet that employers can give to workers, instead of displaying the poster, will be in the form of a pocket card that is better suited to the workplace. These will also be available from 6th April 2009.

From 6th April 2009, it will only be possible to buy the new law poster and obtain the new pocket cards.

What is the law poster?

Employers have a legal duty under the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations (HSIER) to display the poster in a prominent position in each workplace or provide each worker with a copy of the equivalent leaflet outlining British health and safety laws.

How can employers obtain the new poster, pocket cards or other formats?

The new law poster, pocket cards and other formats can be ordered from HSE Books (tel: 01787 881165) and will be distributed by HSE Books and booksellers from 6th April 2009 onwards. Employers will be able to check that they have a genuine HSE law poster by checking the unique, serial numbered hologram on each poster. The prices for the new poster and packs of the pocket cards are unchanged from previous prices. The poster is being printed using a new fully bio-degradable form of plastic. At current VAT rates the standard version costs £7.34. The semi-rigid version costs £11.75. Packs of the pocket card cost £5.00

Will the information be made available in other formats or languages?

Easy to read and large print leaflets will be produced, along with an MP3 version on the [HSE Talking leaflets website](#). The poster and pocket card will also be available in Welsh.

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