

# RESOURCES

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## Chemicals experts put guidance in reach of SMEs

The UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum (UKCSF) has published advice for small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them with an important element of the EU's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation.

Authorisation is one of the REACH processes for managing the risks of certain hazardous substances and promoting their replacement with safer alternatives.

Substances that are subject to authorisation may not be used in the European Union unless a company has been authorised to do so.

The UKCSF guidance has been produced specifically for SMEs as it is increasingly recognised that the complexity of REACH means that SMEs in particular face a challenge in managing it.

Awareness among SMEs is also thought to be low, particularly among 'downstream users of chemicals', those companies using chemicals in their products and processes. The guidance explains how businesses will be affected by the authorisation. It also provides answers to a number of key questions around the authorisation process such as where to find out

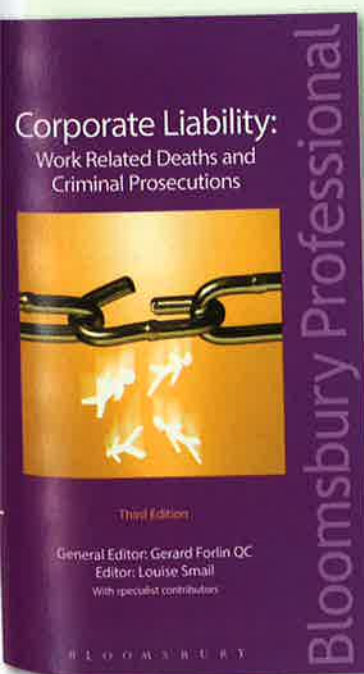
information on how to substitute chemicals; what the key steps and processes are; how to monitor what's going on and practical advice about applying for authorisation.

The UKCSF is now considering the next phases of work and is exploring what can be done to support companies ahead of the 2018 registration deadline, which requires producers of substances produced in quantities between 1-100 tonnes to register them.

To access the guidance, visit: [www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-chemicals-stakeholder-forum](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-chemicals-stakeholder-forum)

## Corporate Liability: Work Related Deaths and Criminal Prosecutions, third edition

General editor, Gerard Forlin QC | editor, Louise Small



When I was asked to review the third edition of this book I recalled how the second edition – core reading on the health and safety and environmental law masters at Salford University a few years ago – was such a valuable resource. I hoped that the third edition would be as useful, despite my academic endeavours having taken a backseat to my practice. I'm pleased to say at the outset that it is.

Since the second edition, a great deal has happened in this area of law. A number of corporate manslaughter prosecutions have made their way through the courts; fines in health and safety and fire safety have continued to creep

higher; Young and Löfstedt reviewed health and safety legislation and their recommendations have resulted in many legislative and policy changes; and, the number of fatal accidents in the UK continues to fall.

Despite those changes, and because most economies are slowly emerging from tough times, there are fears that fatal accidents will increase again. The importance of health and safety in the workplace, and good books for relevant professionals to consult to assist them in improving their organisations, is as important now

as it was at the time the second edition was published.

Intended as a single source of "expert analysis of legal practice and procedure for those required to advise on health and safety" the book achieves its aims. It will assist health and safety professionals whatever part they play on this stage and armed with this book, there'd be little reason to need to look elsewhere.

I wondered if the legalese adopted in the early part of the book might prove inaccessible for some non-lawyers but having read on I'm pleased to see that it's as relevant and helpful to non-lawyers as to legal practitioners in this niche area of law. If any non-lawyers were put off, I'd recommend they persevere lest they miss out on what is an excellent resource for practitioners and academics alike.

The additional chapters on media, sport, emergency services and travel, as well as commentary on the law in other jurisdictions are most welcome. Not only that, they also demonstrate the wide application of the law, and the appeal of such a comprehensive and well-written book.

The expertise of the contributors made this book a pleasure to review and one I would be happy to recommend to anyone with a professional interest in this area of law. It also proves to be a text that most practitioners would want to contribute to, which has to be the benchmark for success of any practitioner text.

I'm glad that I've read it and that it's on my shelf for reference over the next few years. I just wish I'd written it.

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*Corporate Liability: Work Related Deaths and Criminal Prosecution [third edition], ed. Gerard Forlin QC and Dr Louise Small is available from Bloomsbury for £155.*