

# TIPS & ADVICE HEALTH & SAFETY

Your easy to use, money-saving guide to staying on the right side of the law

## Indicator

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## ENFORCEMENT

## News

### “£124 per hour please...”

*The HSE has now published details of how its new charging system will work and when it will be applied. How much could you have to pay?*

**It's happening.** We previously stated that the HSE was considering charging non-compliant businesses for its inspectors' time (yr.10, iss.2, pg.1, see **The next step**). We can now confirm that the HSE's board has decided that, from April, those who aren't meeting their legal obligations will have to pay.

**When will charges be applied?** The good news is that compliant businesses won't pay a penny. This means that if, during a visit, everything is found to be in order, you won't have to pay for the inspector's time. However, if they find something wrong, you will. This will be a “fee for intervention” (FFI), applied when a “material breach” of the law is identified. The HSE has confirmed: “*a material breach is, when in the opinion of the HSE inspector; there has been a contravention of health and safety law that requires written notification (e-mail, instant visit report, letter, enforcement notice or prosecution) of the contravention to the duty holder*”.

**Extended scope.** Previously, we suspected that fees would only be charged in the event of an inspector serving an enforcement notice; however, this definition makes it clear that they may be charged in many more instances. However, the HSE has confirmed that its inspectors will only visit high-risk businesses. Plus, in most cases, visits will be to those who definitely have breached, or are suspected of breaching, the law, i.e. sites at which there's been an accident, dangerous occurrence etc.

**How much will it cost?** Previous estimates were £133 per hour for an inspector's time. However, the actual fee will be **£124 per hour**.

**Tip.** The only way to avoid these fees is to keep below the HSE's radar. Even if you try to be 100% compliant, when inspectors visit a site they usually manage to find something wrong!

### The next step



For a previous article, visit <http://healthandsafety.indicator.co.uk> (HS 10.09.01).



*From April the HSE will charge £124 per hour for an inspector's time. Your only realistic way of avoiding the fee is by keeping below the HSE's radar, i.e. no accidents, dangerous occurrences etc.*

## IMPORTANT NEWS

*For the latest health and safety news...*

*...see pages 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8*