

Requirements for golf clubs and greenkeepers

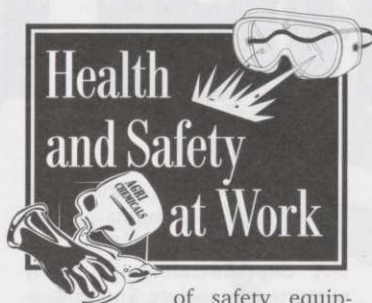
by Tony Rees MIOSH, Health & Safety Consultant & Senior Instructor with ATB-Landbase Training Services

This month we look at the employees duty to themselves and to others.

Employee's Duties, Section 7. "Every Employee must :

- Take reasonable care for his/her own health and safety
- Take reasonable care for the safety of anyone who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions co-operate with the employer to enable the employer to fulfil his statutory obligations

All employees have a duty under the act to ensure that they look after their own health and safety, to this end all employees should not put themselves in a position where their own safety is in jeopardy. To most this point would be taken as using common sense but we must ask ourselves if we always take this attitude. It is often too easy for us to say that it's nothing to do with us as individuals but we should always remember that however many safety procedures, whatever type



of safety equipment our employers provide if we do not choose to use them in the way they were designed to be used and followed then they will be ineffective and we could be held liable.

We also have a duty to take reasonable care for the safety of anyone who may be affected by what we do or don't do. An example would be if we left an unattended piece of equipment next to a green or fairway and a player was injured from this equipment, or if we left the keys in an unattended tractor or grass cutter and an unauthorised person moved this and injured themselves, we as individuals may be deemed to be responsible.

Covering all the above we all have a duty to co-operate with

our employer to ensure that he can fulfil his statutory obligations, this may include us as employees using the personal protective equipment provided by our employer to reduce the risk of injury, or following the written procedures adapted for us by our employers.

Other Duties of employees

Section 8: No person must misuse or interfere with anything provided in the interests of health and safety - when our employer provides safe equipment for our use then we should ensure that we use this equipment in the way it was intended, not interfere with any guards provided and follow all safety procedures laid down

Section 9: The employer must not charge for anything done or provided for health and safety where the provision is required by law - when our employer has provided personal protective equipment for our use as a means of reducing risk as required by the regulations then these must be provided to us free of charge.

Section 36: Where an offence

is committed by a person due to the act or default of another, either or both may be prosecuted - if a greenkeeper took a guard off a machine to use it and the following day the assistant greenkeeper used that machine with the guard not on and he received an injury from the unguarded machine, then the assistant greenkeeper could be prosecuted for using an unguarded machine, the original greenkeeper could also be prosecuted for taking the guard off in the first place.

The previous articles show that although our employer has the ultimate responsibilities for health and safety, we as individuals can also be held accountable for our actions.

Next month we will look at The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations and how they affect our daily work routines.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB Landbase Training Services (Jean John on 01282 617466 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799).

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