

# Importance of effective Electrical Safety Management

A new training opportunity for agricultural engineers to help manage health and safety performance



**Danger**  
**electric shock risk**

## ELECTRICAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Safety in Agriculture is paramount and in view of the poor record in the industry, agricultural engineers have a key role to play in reducing the risks - not just to their clients but within their own businesses.

Many organisations do not have adequate safety management systems with the necessary policies, procedures and competent people. As a result the organisation suffers and it is essential that risks are controlled competently.

Managers can have a difficult task of pointing out to employees, fellow managers and clients that they need to do some things for good reasons. Electricity can be dangerous. It pays to be safe avoiding the cost of incidents. It helps the business run smoothly and business continuity can often be critical to a company's survival.

Clients will expect it. Workers will expect it. The law demands it. The risks can be managed. There are considerable financial and legal implications.

## CONSEQUENCES

There are significant consequences for business if there is a serious mistake or incident.

Disruption reduces productivity, causes losses, unpredictable performance and can affect business continuity. Costs arise for the business from the injured person, the additional work and consequential costs for

the company, for the community and prevention of further incidents.

Ignoring these consequences, hoping they will not happen can be an expensive mistake. The new sentencing guidelines will also lead to much higher penalties (both financial and imprisonment) being applied by Courts following prosecutions.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Managers and technical personnel have responsibilities for managing the risks to control the electrical installation and the activities affected by it.

The health and safety of any organisation's workers, contractors and others potentially at risk has to be managed. There have to be policies, procedures and competent people for that system. It is necessary to ensure that persons working at that installation are capable and have their limitations recognised and formally managed. Those working in the agricultural engineering sector are at significant additional risk as they are often working in unfamiliar workplaces.

Often clients and managers lack the competence and confidence to improve their safety management. Safety management has to be made accessible to technical and non-technical people so that risks to people and their business are safely reduced.

There are serious effects of an incident on the company, injured person, other

workers, families, members of public and YOU. Directors and managers can be jailed, large fines and costs can affect the organisation. That's before we start on the other consequential costs and psychological damage!

IAgrE is offering a new training opportunity for businesses involved in the industry to consider your safety management systems, focussing on electrical issues but the principles are equally applicable to all other hazards. This course has been developed for IAgrE by ex-HSE inspectors Bill Bates and Alan Plom.

IAgrE Member **Alan Plom** is known to many of you from his role as Head of HSE's Agricultural Safety Section, before he 'retired' in 2011. He has since remained closely involved in agricultural health and safety, including being a member of the Board of the Farm Safety Partnership and chair of the Machinery Safety Group.

**Bill Bates** spent many years as an electrical engineer, the last 21 years as an HSE Inspector. During this time he investigated countless incidents, many of which occurred in agriculture and related activities. As a result he is well aware of the risks of getting safety management wrong.

This course builds on their experience in the industry and will help you to reduce the significant risks faced by all businesses working in Landbased industries, not just agricultural engineering.

**Protect your business -  
Control your own risk -  
Comprehensive New  
One Day Course**

**When:** Tuesday 29th September 2015 or Tuesday 17th November 2015

**Where:** IAgrE, The Bullock Building (53), University Way, Cranfield MK43 0GH

**Cost:** £350.00 plus VAT

**Booking Form:** [www.iagre.org/eventbookpay/SafetyCourse](http://www.iagre.org/eventbookpay/SafetyCourse)