

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

The Health and Safety Act 2008 received Royal Assent last year. It came in to force on 16 January 2009. Penalties are increased with this act but it does not in itself impose any new obligations. The principle obligations remain as before under the Health and Safety Work Act 1974.

The Act does make three changes. It raises the maximum financial penalty available to the courts and it makes prison an option as punishment for a wider range of health and safety offences and finally it makes certain offences that would have been tried in a lower court, eligible for trial in a lower court.

If you want to discuss this further contact Charlotte I. Pegman on [cip@hpwsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:cip@hpwsolicitors.co.uk)

February 2009

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