



**Sunday Telegraph - *Health and Safety Executive to reduce red tape* (15 July 2012)**

Workers' lives are at risk because of the Government's obsession with cutting red tape in the name of wiping out a so-called 'compensation culture' which does not even exist.

Professor Ragnar Löfstedt wrote in his independent report, *Reclaiming health and safety for all*, that 'no evidence has been presented for its existence'. Even Lord Young, in his report *Common Sense, Common Safety*, said the issue is 'perception rather than reality'.

Ms Hackitt says Britain has 'one of the best workplace safety records in the world' so surely the Government should at least work to preserve it. Plans to axe some regulations will create gaps in safety measures which could leave workers in the UK's most dangerous industries at severe risk.

The fatal accident rate in dockyards, for example, is five times the national average, so the last thing the industry needs is weaker safety measures. The plan to scrap rules specific to dockyards and replace them with non-compulsory guidance, or to allow regulations for other industries to fill in the gaps, is foolish. The Health and Safety Executive should consider why explicit regulations for certain industries were introduced in the first place.

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