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## **CALL FOR TOUGHER CONSEQUENCES FOR SAFETY-SHY BOSSES**

Companies failing to report workplace injuries should be on the receiving end of a quicker, stricter punishment system, say health and safety lawyers.

Responding to a consultation paper by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which looks at reviewing the way companies are required to deal with reporting injuries, lawyers have called for 'points' to be awarded against those organisations which fail to follow safety rules.

Denise Kitchener, chief executive of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), believes the only way to prevent errant company bosses from turning a blind eye to safety measures is if the company reputation and profit are threatened.

"We have said before that a 'name and shame' system should be introduced for companies which ignore health and safety," she said. "Companies which fail to report accidents should also have points awarded against them – the more points a company is awarded, the more they have to pay in insurance, for example. Failing to report should also result in on the spot fines - any company boss concerned about profit will soon sit up and take note."

APIL says it is crucial that bosses understand the importance of reporting injuries, in order to avoid the same mistakes happening again.

"Reporting injuries could lead to a safer working environment," said Denise. "We believe that any incident reported in the workplace should trigger a further risk assessment in that particular area. This will help to ensure that possible dangers - which may have lead to the initial incident – are identified and avoided in the future."

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**Note to editors:** APIL responded to the Health and Safety Executive consultation paper: The review of reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences regulations 1995 (RIDDOR)

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