

Health and Safety

The general desire to ensure that all businesses take their safety obligations seriously has accumulated huge support following countless failed prosecutions of large companies for the deaths caused by their activities. This has led to ever increasing regulation by the Government, and also the introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007.

The primary purpose of the Corporate Manslaughter Act was to make it easier to prosecute companies for deaths caused by their activities. This, in conjunction with new sentencing guidelines which provide for significant fines, and which enable courts to require the offence to be publicised howsoever they wish, gives the new Act enormous importance.

Our Services

We provide a complete health and safety service. We offer clients a before and after-the-event service, providing a “one-stop-shop” to deal with all health and safety issues.

We give advice and assistance in setting up the policies and procedures required to comply with safety obligations and to help protect against claims and prosecutions which may flow from a safety-related incident.

We deal with all claims which a company may face as a result of a safety-related incident. This may involve corporate or individual manslaughter prosecutions, an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive, coroners’ inquiries, inquests and civil claims for compensation. We have considerable experience in matters of this sort, both in the UK and overseas, and so we are able to provide clients with a complete service in preparing for and dealing with such issues.

Highlights of our experience

The sensitive and confidential nature of some of the large cases with which we are dealing makes it impossible for us to be specific. However, our client list and experience are impressive.

- We act for **Amazon** in relation to the defense of various investigations and inquiries which have arisen out of the injury to customers who have bought defective goods.
- We acted on behalf of a well know **public company** in relation to a multi-faceted investigation which resulted from a safety-related incident overseas. This included an investigation by the UK authorities into corporate manslaughter, individual manslaughter and breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act. We also led the defence of foreign criminal proceedings, a British Coroner’s inquest and civil claims for compensation in the UK. We have also acted on similar matters in the past.

- We advised a **multinational oil and gas corporation** on the safety implications associated with manufacturing and distributing a new lubricant. We advised on the proper approach to launching in Europe and also advised, with the assistance of local Counsel, in Turkey, China, Argentina and Brazil.
- We continue to act on behalf of a well known **UK weight-loss brand** on the defense of various investigations, inquests and claims which arise from time to time.
- We advised an **American manufacturing company** on the safety implications of manufacturing and distributing water-safety analysis equipment in the UK.
- We advised a **multinational travel company** on the proper approach to health and safety, formulated its first health and safety manual and assisted with its implementation in Europe.

A selection of our clients



Why choose us

A specialist health and safety team

We work in this area on a daily basis. We know what is important, and what needs to be done to protect your business.

A cross-departmental group

We have a blend of experience and expertise, which allows us to offer the best advice to our clients, taking into account many different perspectives.

A before and after-the-event service

We offer clients advice and assistance in relation to the steps which they ought to be taking to avoid safety-related issues, and to minimise the risk of prosecution should an accident occur. We also deal with all forms of proceedings which may flow from a safety-related incident.

A track record

We are vastly experienced in matters of this sort both in the UK and overseas and so we are able to provide clients with a complete and unparalleled service

"Sources say this firm "engenders great loyalty in its clients " and "never drops the ball."

**Quotation from
Chambers 2013**

"Its high-quality service and capacity to bring in additional resources when necessary."

**Quotation from
Chambers 2011**

"Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP provides "quality advice and is responsive to tight deadlines."

**Quotation from
Chambers 2013**

"Peter Stewart and Rhys Griffiths at Fieldfisher act on both investigations and prosecutions, as well as providing a non-contentious advisory service. Thomas Cook is a key client"

**Quotation from
Legal 500 2014**

Contacts

Rhys Griffiths

Partner - London

E: rhys.griffiths@fieldfisher.com

T: +44 (0)20 7861 4546

Sibylle Schumacher

Partner - Munich

E: sibylle.schumacher@fieldfisher.com

T: +49 (0) 89 620 6226

Emmanuel Roger-France

Partner - Brussels

E: emmanuel.rogerfrance@fieldfisher.com

T: +32 2 742 7026

Brigitte Daille-Duclos

Partner - Paris

E: Brigitte.daille-duclos@fieldfisher.com

T: +33 (0) 170 378 125