

Mims Davies MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Work and Pensions
Dear Minister,

We are writing on behalf of Arco, the UK's leading safety company and the largest distributor of health and safety equipment. We who also offer specialist training and consultancy services that relate to workplace risks, in particular those associated with work at height, confined spaces and respiratory hazards. We sit on the Board of the British Safety Industry Federation, represent the BSIF at the European Committee for Standardisation and the International Standards Organisation, and chair several British Standards Institute protective equipment committees. We've earned the right to comment and have the responsibility to do so.

Like many other organisations throughout the health and safety sector, Arco is seriously concerned about the impacts of the Retained EU Law Bill. Our core purpose is to keep people safe at work. We believe that everyone should have the right to go to work and come home safe, which is something that will be seriously under threat should we reach the end of 2023 without a suitable alternative to health and safety regulation in place. Ambiguity will cause accidents.

The UK is world leading when it comes to ensuring the safety of its workforce and this is largely down to the strength of the existing legislation. 2024 will see the 50th Anniversary of the Health and Safety at Work Act, which has been instrumental in ensuring that the UK has one of the strongest health and safety records in Europe. However, this positive record is seriously at risk if the relevant regulations which support the act cease to exist.

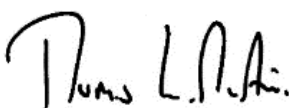
Arco are considered experts in the field of health and safety, and in 2014, when the Lofstedt Review of health and safety legislation was published, we welcomed the consolidation and simplification of the regulatory framework. Since then, we have continued to advocate the reform of health and safety regulation to ensure that it remains relevant in today's workplaces. Recently, in 2021 we published a position paper (attached) in which we laid out our vision for a new fit for purpose product safety framework making a series of recommendations that would build a system that is easy to navigate but harder to circumvent and develop a product safety framework that is fit for the future.

As the UK's leading safety company, Arco is committed to playing a leading role in helping to shape the safety agenda and has a proud history of working constructively with Government to ensure UK health and safety regulation is world leading and appropriate. We have contributed written evidence of the Arco view to several recent Government reviews including: Public Accounts Committee "Government procurement and supply of personal protective equipment", The Product Safety Review and both APPGs for Respiratory and the risks of silica dust. We would like to continue this constructive relationship with Government throughout this period, and our priority will always be to ensure that everyone in the UK has the right to go to work and return home safely.

As the Minister responsible for the Health and Safety Executive, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and lay out our concerns over the potential impacts that the Retained EU Law Bill will have on the health and safety of the UK's workforce, specifically regarding what is referred to as the 'six pack' health and safety regulations and those that relate to hazardous environments that may cause injury, life changing diseases and at worst fatality.

We are very keen to meet with you in order to continue this important discussion. I will ask my colleague at DGA, Elen Young, to follow up with your team on this request, on behalf of the UK's workforce.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Martin
Chairman, Arco Limited



Guy R Bruce
Chief Executive Officer, Arco Limited