Diamond donations to raise £30,000 for local charities

Guildford-based courier company Diamond Logistics has set up a charity-based loyalty card scheme which aims to raise £30,000 within the next two years for three local organisations – The Community Foundation for Surrey, The Lightbox and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

For further information or to request a Diamond Donate card, contact Diamond Logistics on 01483 812020 or visit www.reallygoodcouriers.com

Shipleys’ new expat tax specialist helps defuse multi-national minefield

Surrey-based accountants and professional business advisers Shipleys LLP has been joined by Oliver Heslop as a principal in its Godalming Office. With more and more people working abroad, sorting out how much of someone’s income is taxed in each country and dealing with all the paperwork for tax, social security and pension purposes can be a real nightmare.

For example, a British oil or gas company which sends an engineer to work in Azerbaijan on a joint venture with a local extractor might well expect to have to pay some local taxes but have no idea how to go about it!

However, most foreign banks wouldn’t expect their top executives who live abroad to be liable to UK tax if they visit the subsidiary here as a UK board member - but this scenario is not always so straightforward.

Oliver’s specialist advice is increasingly in demand as he makes sure that businesses and their employees comply with the local tax and social security rules which apply when people are relocated to or simply work some of the time in another country.

Oliver lived and worked in Poland as an expat for six months so has personal experience and a real understanding of the issues which arise.

He explains he’s faced some interesting challenges: “a client with an executive working in India who got arrested after his offer to pay the tax police (yes they do exist) his arrears of tax was misunderstood for a bribe”, to “looking after a professional gambler who lives in several different EU countries but doesn’t want to be liable for two or more lots of death duties.”

He has built up a wide network of contacts and is a mine of practical information. For example, personal security insurance is relatively easy to obtain in South America as most kidnappings there are for financial gain, and therefore straightforward for insurers to quantify and settle, as opposed to political kidnappings, e.g. in Africa, which can be much harder to insure.

For more information contact Oliver Heslop can be contacted on 01483 423607 or HeslopO@Shipleys.com

Fatal accident due to employer’s failings

When we hear of young men or women being killed in conflict zones, we consider it tragic. It just doesn’t seem right that people die so young.

Philip Locke was 21 years old when he died, but not in a war, he was simply at work. He was carrying out a pressure test on a high pressure valve. It is believed that during the test, the vent valve became detached from the machine and hit him at high speed, causing fatal chest injuries. His employer pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety laws and was fined £150,000 plus £66,000 in costs at the Crown Court in June.

The HSE investigation found that the company had not carried out an adequate risk assessment and had failed to recognise the risk of parts, such as the vent valve, detaching during the pressure testing.

There are lessons to be learned from this. Not least that the tragic accident was entirely avoidable. The HSE’s inspector reported that: “The company could easily have modified the system of work and the death of Mr Locke could have been prevented.”

Assured Safety & Health is based in Surbiton and has more than 20 years experience of developing safe systems of work. If you are thinking of reviewing your health and safety arrangements, or need health and safety advice, please call Martin Larmour on 0208 873 0976.