

Hawkins

Leaders in forensic investigation



PERSONAL INJURY

Providing specialist forensic investigation and expert witness services for personal injury incidents.

www.hawkins.biz

Accidents in the Workplace | Chemical Incidents | Construction Site Injury
Falls From Height | Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome
Health & Safety Reviews | Manual Handling | Noise-Induced Hearing Loss
Occupational Health | Slips, Trips & Stair Falls | Road Traffic Collisions



Established in 1980, Hawkins specialises in forensic investigation and root cause analysis for the insurance, legal and risk management professions. Our clear, concise and timely reports will provide the understanding you need to make the correct decisions on your risks.

We have over 120 experts in the UK & Ireland, Dubai, Hong Kong, and Singapore and provide worldwide service from these bases. Our experts can advise, investigate, and assist at any stage of an incident, including pre-loss prevention and risk assessment, root cause analysis, post-failure remediation advice and expert witness services.

All our experts are highly experienced forensic scientists and engineers from a wide range of disciplines with proven expertise and practical experience.

“Clients come back to Hawkins because of our honesty and integrity. Our subject matter experts have sound technical knowledge and expertise, married with a real commercial awareness of what our clients need. Hawkins provides a rapid response, giving timely, accurate advice and communication of the evidence in a way our clients can act upon.”

Dr Andrew Prickett, Managing Director, Hawkins

Our team has the proven expertise and practical experience to investigate a wide range of personal injury incidents. Our experts are experienced investigators made up of forensic engineers and scientists, many of whom specialise in key subject areas including falls from height, noise-induced hearing loss, slips, trips and stair falls, manual handling, lifting operations and incidents involving machinery.

Our Personal Injury team can provide investigative input into Civil claims and cases being dealt with by the Criminal Courts. Our Investigators maintain a robust balance between the numbers of instructions taken from Claimant's side and Defendant's side, and are happy to act as single joint experts where appropriate.



Service Types



PRE-FAILURE RISK MANAGEMENT

Guidance on design, installation, and regulations to ensure safety, compliance, and risk reduction.



ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Scientific investigation into all aspects of an incident to determine what happened, why and in what sequence.



EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES

Independent and impartial technical advice to assist Counsel during all aspects of litigation.



POST-FAILURE ADVICE

Consultancy advice to reduce, mitigate and prevent risks associated with similar events happening in the future.



MAJOR & COMPLEX LOSS

Global resources and multidisciplinary teams, armed with the knowledge, equipment and facilities to manage and investigate major and complex incidents.

Levels of Reporting Available

Our reporting is flexible and can be tailored to your needs, depending on the scale and urgency of the investigation. Our services range from a free consultation through to a full investigation including a court-compliant report for the support of legal action.

1

FREE CONSULTATION

We are always available for an initial, confidential discussion with no commitment and at no charge.

2

PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL

Our Preliminary Appraisal consists of an initial investigation of the readily-available information, including a site visit where applicable and interviewing relevant personnel on site. This allows you to make an informed decision on the future conduct of the investigation, while keeping your costs under firm control.

3

FULL INVESTIGATION

We can carry out a full, in-depth investigation, accompanied by a detailed report with clear conclusions and recommendations.

4

PHASED APPROACH

Where your case is large, complex or the scope is not easy to define, we often recommend a phased approach.



We Investigate...

ACCIDENTS IN THE WORKPLACE

The majority of workplace injuries are the result of slips, trips or falls, manual handling, or falls from height. However, incidents involving machinery/tools, and injuries involving vehicles also occur in high numbers. Our specialists routinely carry out both the physical examination of materials associated with the incident, as well as an evaluation of relevant documentation, such as Risk Assessments and Systems of work.

CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

When dangerous chemicals or materials are involved in a failure, the consequences can be life threatening. Increased scale of production of pure substances comes with many increased risks. Fires, explosions, toxic gas clouds, and chemical leaks, can all cause potential injury and future long-term health effects. In particular, asbestos continues to cause health issues as well as difficulties in the refurbishment and demolition of many buildings. Hawkins can investigate what has caused a chemical incident and advise on both liability and recovery.

CONSTRUCTION SITE INJURY

Despite concerted efforts to tighten regulations, construction continues to be the most dangerous industry in the UK. All our investigators have both design and site experience with some of the most prestigious international design consultants and on the most complex construction sites. We can assist you with pre-loss risk management, forensic investigation, expert witness services through to post-loss advice.

FALLS FROM HEIGHT

We investigate the nature of the fall and causation. We can provide advice on whether any defects were present, (e.g. in windows), or whether the relevant construction met British/European Standards, as well as confirm which building regulations may apply and whether these have been met.

HAND-ARM VIBRATION SYNDROME

Use of vibrating hand-held tools, such as jackhammers, can increase the propensity of HAVS whilst exposure of the whole body to vibration, and shocks, through the use of large machinery, such as earth moving machinery can also lead to musculoskeletal problems. Hawkins can measure and assess vibration exposure to identify machinery which may cause harm to workers.



HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEWS

We assess existing procedures to determine the efficacy and effectiveness of Health & Safety policies. We review risk management strategies, reporting arrangements, and the actions taken to identify and rectify potential weaknesses. Our services include pre-loss risk management to support implementation of the correct procedures as a preventative action, through to an investigatory role should a health and safety incident occur.

MANUAL HANDLING

Manual handling is defined by the HSE as transporting or supporting a load by hand or bodily force. It is a common risk in industries and workplaces, including construction sites, warehouses, and offices. Our detailed investigation determines the direct cause of the accident, as well as all contributory factors. We assist you in ascertaining whether your client has a valid claim or is liable for the injury.

NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most insidious injuries and is tightly regulated under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations. We can provide an assessment of your work environment ranging from simple spot measurements or personal employee assessments, development of a full Hearing Conservation Program through to expert guidance in the event of litigation.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Hawkins offers investigative services that cover a range of Occupational Health matters. We can scrutinise measures put in place to prevent physical and mental occupational ill health, analyse their efficacy, and establish their effectiveness (or otherwise). We can also study the associated working practices that can impact occupational health, as part of a holistic investigation.

SLIPS, TRIPS & STAIR FALLS

Personal injury claims involving slips, trips or falls are extremely common, and the injuries that result can be severe. Such incidents are responsible for a third of all injuries reported to the HSE under RIDDOR, and occur across all sectors, and in commercial and domestic settings. We have extensive experience and knowledge within this specialist sector and are credited with being one of the leading firms of professional forensic investigators within this field.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Hawkins has the largest group of Road Traffic Collision investigators in the UK. We can carry out desktop or CCTV analysis, attend the scene of a collision, examine a vehicle, or perform a full collision reconstruction, enabling an accurate assessment of liability.



Hawkins' Expertise

We have over 120 experts located across the UK & Ireland, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. Our expertise covers a vast number of specialist areas including:

ACOUSTICS & AUDIOLOGY

Our experts assess and advise on acoustic design in the planning stages, and provide mitigation strategies post-construction in the event of a noise dispute.

ARCHITECTURE

We investigate building defects to determine whether design or workmanship is the root cause. With experience in many sectors and across all work stages from inception to occupation, we can provide advice tailored to your project.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our civil, structural, geotechnical and fire engineers provide expert investigation of defects and failures in the built environment, including water ingress, structural collapses, storm damage and personal injuries, especially on construction sites.

CHEMISTRY & CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Hawkins' team of highly qualified and experienced chemists and chemical engineers provide expert opinion on problems associated with chemical processes in a wide variety of industries, including post-incident investigation, goods handling, environmental concerns, hazardous substances and personal injury.

CONTAMINATION

Our team of highly qualified and experienced chemists can investigate a wide range of contamination and spillage incidents.

DIGITAL FORENSICS

Hawkins' experts collect, authenticate and preserve original evidence. We discover the source of a digital event or attack, how it occurred, and what information may have been lost or compromised.

ELECTRICAL

We investigate incidents including failures and injury involving most types of electrical equipment, from micro-electronics and domestic electrical appliances through to high voltage generation and distribution.

ESCAPE OF WATER, GAS, OIL AND OTHER FLUIDS

We can provide system failure analyses for incidents involving all fluids and gases in industrial and domestic settings with onsite and laboratory investigations.

FIRE & EXPLOSIONS

As a leader in forensic fire investigation, Hawkins has the necessary knowledge and experience to investigate the full scale of losses globally, and advise on recovery, liability and risk management.

FIRE ENGINEERING

Hawkins has the necessary competencies to advise on fire engineering matters including compliance with fire safety legislation and guidance, investigation of fire spread and building fire safety design, construction and management.

FRAUD

We compare physical evidence with witness accounts to establish if the evidence is consistent with a suggested sequence of events or actions. This applies to both small and major losses.

HYDROLOGY

Our expert hydrologists and engineers have years of experience identifying the cause(s) of complex flooding incidents.

MARINE INCIDENTS

We assist on a wide range of incidents including agricultural cargoes, liquefaction, fires, explosions, chemical contamination and ship management.

MATERIALS

From medical implants to satellites, our experts are on hand to establish the cause of failure of manufactured items.

MECHANICAL

Losses often involve the failure of multi-component mechanical systems. We have the knowledge and experience to identify the cause, no matter how complex.

PERSONAL INJURY

We provide independent and expert assistance with all types of personal injury, including specialised and complex areas like slips, trips and falls, and noise-induced hearing loss.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

At Hawkins, plant pathology encompasses agricultural, horticultural, forestry, marine and contamination claims. Our experts are experienced in investigating the causes of plant diseases, crop failures and spoilage of fresh produce and agricultural cargoes.

POWER & ENERGY

We investigate all aspects of failures in traditional thermal power, oil and gas, and renewable energy sources. As well as incidents such as electric shock, gas leaks, power failure, over-voltage, equipment failure and poor design and maintenance.

PROCESSES

Our engineers help identify the cause of a problem and advise on liability and future prevention.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

We are experts in the field of product liability and often deal directly with UK Trading Standards offices or similar statutory bodies.

RAILWAYS

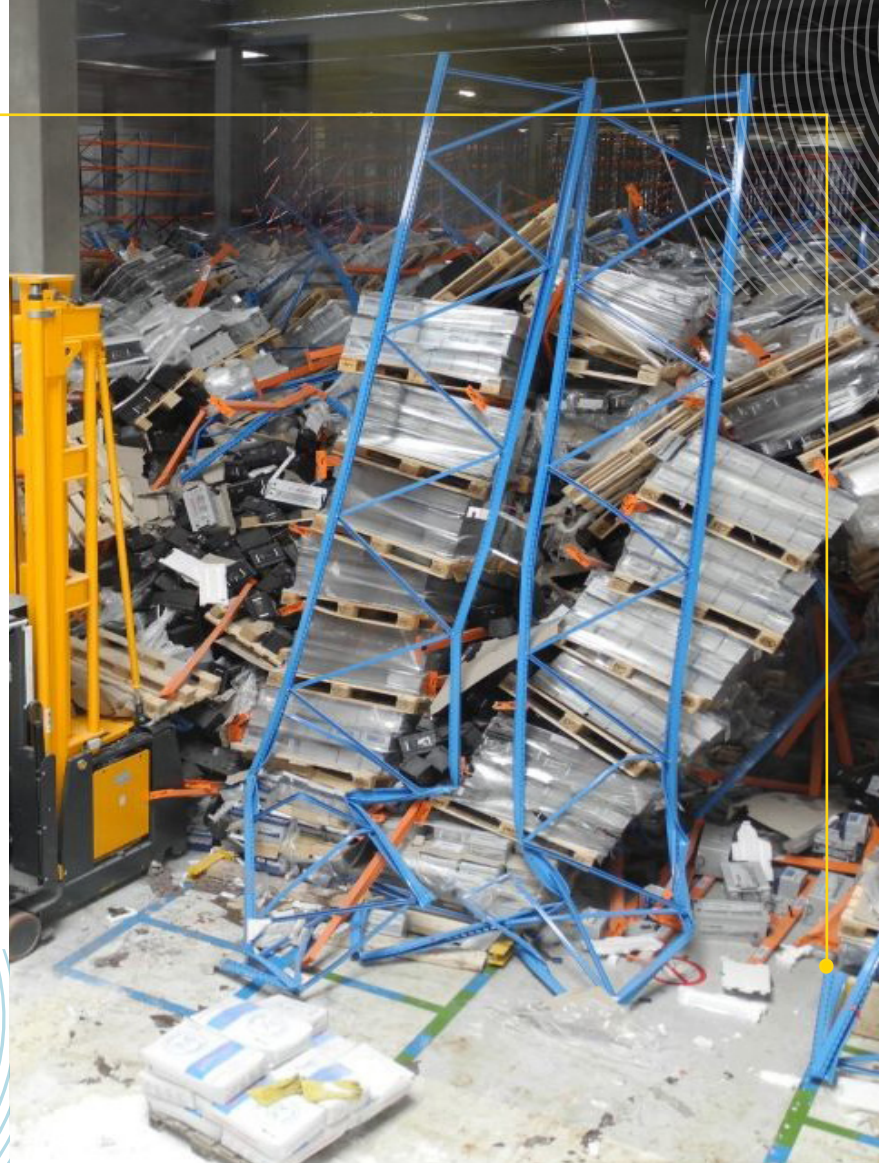
We have investigated incidents including derailments, unintended runaways and accidents at level crossings.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Our investigators identify all contributory factors and analyse issues such as vehicle speed, visibility, human factors, CCTV, road positioning, weather, vehicle faults and damage assessments.

VEHICLE, PLANT & MACHINERY

We investigate fires and failures involving all types of vehicles and plant. We routinely review designs and maintenance practices to provide recommendations to our clients.



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