Red tape day – even more new rules and regulations for businesses to absorb than last year

Businesses need to get to grips with 82 new statutes and statutory instruments coming into force on April 6th

82 new statutes and statutory instruments that impact on businesses will be implemented on Red Tape Day, April 6, a 12% increase on the 73 that came into force last year, says Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal information providers.

Alina Lourie, Director of Enterprise-wide Solutions at Sweet & Maxwell, comments: “The Government’s promises to cut back on the amount of red tape that businesses have to deal with have still not born fruit. In fact, companies and their lawyers are having to deal with more regulations and new laws this year than last.”

During the week commencing March 31 there will be 128 new statutes and statutory instruments introduced that will impact on business, compared to 81 introduced around “Red Tape Day” last year.

Some of the major changes introduced on April 6th that businesses will need to be aware of include:

- The introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter Act
- Changes to the Sex Discrimination Act in relation to pregnancy, maternity leave and harassment
- The extension of the Occupational Pensions Schemes regulations - organisations with more than 50 employees must consult with members of pension schemes before making changes to future pensions arrangements
- New Employment Equality regulations relating to employee benefits based on the length of service
- New provisions for employment agencies to protect the rights of agency workers

The table below illustrates the surge in statutes and statutory instruments affecting commercial law introduced around “Red Tape Day”.

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1 Information taken from Enterprise-wide Solutions at Sweet & Maxwell
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<td>No. of statutes/statutory instruments implemented</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>82</td>
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**Statutes and statutory instruments affecting business—implemented March/April 2008**
(excludes non-commercial law)

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Notes to editors:

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