

Health and Safety

Stuart Renfree



Managing Health and Safety

What the law requires:

- Under the HSW Act, you have to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others who may be affected by what you do or fail to do.
- The Act applies to all work activities and premises and everyone at work has responsibilities under it, including the self-employed.

Managing Health and Safety

- New regulations have replaced and updated much of the old law on health and safety, but there are specific laws applying to certain premises, such as the Factories Act 1961 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

Managing Health and Safety

Some basic information:

You must:

- Have a written, up to date health and safety policy if you employ five or more people.
- Carry out a risk assessment (and if you employ five or more people, record the main findings and your arrangements for health and safety).
- Display a current certificate as required by the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 if you employ anyone.
- Display the Health and Safety Law poster for employees or give out the leaflet.

Managing Health and Safety

Hazard and risk

- A hazard is anything that can cause harm (e.g. chemicals, electricity, working from ladders etc).
- Risk is the chance (big or small) of harm being done.

Who might be harmed?

- Workers
- Visitors to the premises
- The public

Managing Health and Safety

- How high are the risks?
- Are the main risks under control?
- Where to get help
- Make improvements
- Check that precautions remain in place
- How often to check
- Who is a competent person? *Someone who has the necessary technical expertise, training and experience to carry out the examination or test. This could be an outside organisation such as an insurance company or other inspecting organisation, a self-employed person or one of your own staff who is capable of doing the task.*

The Workplace

The Law

- Look at the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 for the full requirements.
- The regulations originally applied in full only to new and modified workplaces, but existing workplaces have been covered from 1st January 1996, replacing similar requirements, previously in the Factories Act 1961 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

The Workplace

- A safe place of work
- Lighting
- Moving around the premises
- Designing work stations
- Cleanliness
- Hygiene and welfare
- Display screen equipment
- Fire precautions
- Comfortable conditions

Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

Equipment must:

- Be maintained and serviced
- Be checked (pre-start checks)
- Be guarded (ROPS-FOPS)
- Have restraining systems (lap belts)
- Have a suitable field of vision
- Be operated by trained, certificated operators of which training has to be recorded.

Risk Assessment

The Law

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 place duties on employers and the self-employed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to their own health and safety and that of others from the work they do.
- This includes employees, any casual workers, part-timers, trainees, customers or contractors. It will also include those who may be affected by work activities, e.g. neighbours, sales people, members of the public etc.

Risk Assessment

- What are the hazards?
- Who might be harmed and how?
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions.
- Put the results into practice.
- Check controls stay in place and review the assessment.