



Health & Safety Risks and Requirements

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Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

- Health & Safety in a business
- What are the basic requirements?
- What happens if an accident does occur?



Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

- Aim: securing the health safety and welfare of persons at work, other 3rd parties, controlling dangerous substances and preventing noxious emissions into the atmosphere
- There are specific industry and subject statutory instruments. Codes of practice issued by the HSE are to be taken into account in prosecutions



Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

- Responsibility on employers so far as is reasonably practicable to ensure health safety & welfare of employees. Eg: looking after plant, machinery premises etc.
- Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 Health and Safety is a responsibility of directors and business owners
- Owners/occupiers of buildings also responsible in so far as they have not let the premises.



The Basics

You must have:

- a written Health & Safety Policy (as well as a written fire procedure);
- an accident book;
- health & safety poster;
- a basic medical kit;
- An appointed person or trained first aider depending on the size of the business



What you must do:

- Carry out annual risk assessments & follow through on them.
- Identify the hazards present (a hazard is anything with the potential to cause harm e.g. slippery floors, electrical equipment, lifting heavy objects, stress, machinery, fire etc.).
- Identify the people at risk from the hazards e.g. employees, contractors, visitors etc.



What you must do:

- Evaluate the risk, taking into account the likelihood and severity of any accidents. Existing controls in place should be identified and evaluated.
- Record the findings on a suitable form.
- Review the risk assessment regularly



Also be mindful of:

- Carrying of heavy loads by your employees
- The use of work stations
- Eye tests
- Use of equipment
- Testing of electrical equipment

Contact Details

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