



HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW



HSE
Health & Safety
Executive

What you should know

Your health, safety and welfare are protected by law. Your employer has a duty to protect and keep you informed about health and safety. You have a responsibility to look after others. If there is a problem, discuss it with your employer or safety representative, if there is one. Below is a brief guide to health and safety law. It does not describe the law in detail, but it does list the key points.

Your employer has a duty under the law to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, your health, safety and welfare at work.

Your employer must consult you or your safety representative on matters relating to your health and safety at work (see box below).

In general, your employer's duties include:

- making your workplace safe and without risks to health;
- ensuring plant and machinery are safe and that safe systems of work are set and followed;
- ensuring articles and substances are moved, stored and used safely;
- providing adequate welfare facilities;
- giving you the information, instruction, training and supervision necessary for your health and safety.

Health and safety consultation and representation arrangements at this workplace

Your employer must consult you or your representative on matters to do with your health and safety, including:

- any change which may substantially affect your health and safety at work, eg in procedures, equipment or ways of working;
- the employer's arrangements for getting competent people to help him/her satisfy health and safety laws;
- the information you have to be given on the likely risks and dangers arising from your work, measures to reduce or get rid of these risks and what you should do if you have to deal with a risk or danger;
- the planning of health and safety; and
- the health and safety consequences of introducing new technology.

Names and locations of trade union or other safety representatives, and the groups they represent:

Name: Contact School/Service Reception or Admin
Location: Offices for details

Group: UNISON

Name: Contact School/Service Reception or Admin
Location: Offices for details

Group: UCU

Name:
Location:

Group:

In particular, your employer must:

- assess the risks to your health and safety;
- make arrangements for implementing the health and safety measures identified as being necessary by the assessment;
- if there are five or more employees, record the significant findings of the risk assessment and the arrangements for health and safety measures;
- if there are five or more employees, draw up a health and safety policy statement, including the health and safety organisation and arrangements in force, and bring it to your attention;
- appoint someone competent to assist with health and safety responsibilities, and consult you or your safety representative about this appointment;

Management of health and safety

Appointed person(s): Health and safety responsibilities:
Head of Health, Safety & Environmental Services
School/Service Health & Safety Advisors

- co-operate on health and safety with other employers sharing the same workplace;
- set up emergency procedures;
- provide adequate first-aid facilities;
- make sure that the workplace satisfies health, safety and welfare requirements, eg for ventilation, temperature, lighting, and sanitary, washing and rest facilities;
- make sure that work equipment is suitable for its intended use, so far as health and safety is concerned, and that it is properly maintained and used;
- prevent or adequately control exposure to substances which may damage your health;
- take precautions against danger from flammable or explosive hazards, electrical equipment, noise and radiation;
- avoid hazardous manual handling operations, and where they cannot be avoided, reduce the risk of injury;
- provide health surveillance as appropriate;
- provide free any protective clothing or equipment, where risks are not adequately controlled by other means;
- ensure that appropriate safety signs are provided and maintained;
- report certain injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences to the appropriate health and safety enforcing authority (see box in column 3 for who this is).

As an employee you have legal duties too. They include:

- taking reasonable care for your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what you do or do not do;
- co-operating with your employer on health and safety;
- correctly using work items provided by your employer, including personal protective equipment, in accordance with training or instructions; and
- not interfering with or misusing anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.

If you think there is a health and safety problem in your workplace you should first discuss it with your employer, supervisor or manager. You may also wish to discuss it with your safety representative, if there is one. You, your employer or your safety representative can get information on health and safety in confidence by calling HSE's Infoline telephone service on 0845 345 0055.

If you think your employer is exposing you to risks or is not carrying out legal duties, and you have pointed this out without getting a satisfactory answer, you can contact the enforcing authority for health and safety in your workplace (see below). Health and safety inspectors can give advice on how to comply with the law. They also have powers to enforce it. HSE's Employment Medical Advisory Service can give advice on health at work. You can contact them at the addresses below.

Name and address of enforcing authority whose health and safety inspectors cover this workplace (eg HSE or your local authority's Environmental Health Department):

Name: Health & Safety Executive
Address: Lyme Vale Court, Lyme Drive
Parklands Business Park, Newcastle Road,
Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent ST4 6NW

Employment Medical Advisory Service

Address: As above

You can get advice on general fire precautions etc from the Fire Brigade or your fire officer.

More information about health and safety law is set out in HSE publications, such as:

Essentials of health and safety at work
HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0716 X

An introduction to health and safety: Health and safety in small businesses Leaflet INDG259(rev1)
HSE Books 2003 (single copy free)

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