

Risk Assessment

Knowledge Paper Answers

Risk Assessment Knowledge Paper

1. What framework act was the first to apply to all workplaces and types of work?

The Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974

2. Who are the HSE?

Health and Safety Executive

3. Give 2 examples of reportable events under RIDDOR.

- Accidental death
- Accident resulting in more than 7 days absence from work
- Certain diseases / illnesses (a full list is accessible from the RIDDOR website)
- Injuries to non-employees requiring immediate medical attention
- Near misses (incidents that could have caused serious injury but didn't e.g. a hoist sling tearing while in use)
- Events such as fires or collapse of buildings

4. How could accident reports be used by managers carrying out risk assessments?

To identify the kinds of things that go wrong, and the potential harm caused

5. Who should carry out formal risk assessments in the workplace?

Employers and managers who are competent

6. Give 3 examples of occupational risk factors

- Assisting and moving clients
- Meeting care needs of people with significant mental and / or physical health problems
- Stress
- Handling chemicals
- Infected bodily fluids
- Other things significant to the job that creates risk

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7. Suggest 2 ways in which your behaviour could create risk.

- Lack of attention
- Carelessness
- Not doing informal risk assessments
- 'mucking about'
- Doing something you're not trained to do

8. What is the first step of formal risk assessment?

Identify the hazards

9. Why is it important to carry out informal risk assessments when performing hazardous tasks?

To maintain safety for all concerned; legal duty to protect health and safety; to identify hazards and be able to reduce them

10. Why might your employer talk to you and your colleagues before carrying out risk assessments?

To find out any health and safety concerns you have

11. What risk value would you give to a hazard creating a possible chance of significant injury?

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12. Give 3 examples of groups of people who might be at risk if there was a fire on your premises?

- Employees
- Clients
- Visitors
- Contractors
- Passers by
- Neighbours
- Children
- Emergency services

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13. Why do employers have a legal duty to carry out specific risk assessments for women of childbearing age?

They might be pregnant and either not know or have chosen not to inform employer, work practices may put baby or mother at risk

14. Why would you need to inform your employer if you had injured your back playing sport?

So that they could assess the risk of work you were doing to identify tasks you couldn't do

15. If you had an infectious illness and didn't inform your employer who might you be putting at risk?

Anyone you could infect; clients, colleagues and visitors mainly

16. What factors does a risk assessor need to consider when looking at options for control measures?

- Level of risk
- Cost
- Time
- Effort involved

17. Why would risk assessments need to be reviewed if an accident occurred?

To identify why control measures had failed and if new arrangements were necessary

18. Suggest 2 ways in which you can control the risks associated with manual handling tasks.

- Training
- Equipment
- Appropriate clothing
- Safe environment
- Limit weight
- Reduce number of times

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19. Which specific piece of legislation requires the hazards associated with cleaning chemicals to be risk assessed and controlled?

COSHH Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

20. Why must control measures be communicated to all employees and others who need to be aware of them?

So that they can take necessary action to put them into practice