

Welcome

Ensuring workplace safety means planning for everyone, including individuals who may need assistance in an emergency. A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) is a tailored evacuation strategy designed for employees, visitors, or contractors who may require additional support during an emergency evacuation. In this month's newsletter, we explore what PEEPs are, when businesses need to establish them, and the key legal requirements surrounding them.

Why is a PEEP Important?

In an emergency, especially when it comes to a fire breaking out in a building, a safe evacuation of all residents/occupants should be the priority. However, not every resident/occupant will be able to evacuate in a safe manner without the assistance of others, and for this reason, it is important to have a plan in place for this eventuality. This Month's Newsletter will cover PEEPs, what the purpose of them is, why they might be needed, what they should contain, and who is responsible for completing them.

What is the purpose of a PEEP?

The purpose of a PEEP is to ensure that all occupants can evacuate the building safely and promptly in the event of an emergency, regardless of their level of mobility or other impairments.

Why might a PEEP be needed?

A PEEP is needed in a situation where the relevant person requires additional support during an emergency evacuation, whether that be through permanent disabilities or impairments, or through temporary disabilities or impairments.

Employers also need to consider their responsibilities regarding the legal obligations of PEEPs, specifically the commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans

What is a PEEP?

A PEEP is a customised evacuation plan for individuals who may have difficulty evacuating a building without assistance in an emergency. This includes people with:

- Mobility impairments e.g., wheelchair users, those with crutches.
- Sensory impairments e.g., vision or hearing difficulties.
- Cognitive conditions that may affect decision-making or navigation.
- Temporary impairments e.g., pregnancy, injury, or short-term medical conditions.

A well-structured PEEP ensures that everyone knows what to do, where to go, and who will assist them in an emergency, reducing confusion and enhancing safety.

When Does a Company Need to Establish a PEEP?

Businesses must create PEEPs when an individual with specific evacuation needs is identified in the workplace. This applies to:

- Employees who have a disability or impairment affecting evacuation.
- Visitors or contractors who frequently access the premises and may require support.
- Public buildings where regular visitors may have additional needs.

Employers should conduct regular workplace assessments to determine whether PEEPs are necessary and ensure staff are adequately trained to assist in an evacuation.

Steps to Implement an Effective PEEP

- Identify individuals who may need a PEEP – Conduct assessments during onboarding or regular reviews.
- Develop a clear evacuation strategy – Specify routes, methods, and assistance required.
- Assign responsible staff members – Train fire wardens or colleagues to assist in an evacuation.
- Use specialist equipment if needed – Consider evacuation chairs, alarms with flashing lights, or vibrating pagers.
- Regularly review and test PEEPs – Conduct fire drills and adapt plans as needed.

Who is responsible for completing a PEEP?

It is the duty of the managing agent, responsible person or nominated representative to complete any PEEPs that may be needed.

Whilst it is understood that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 does not specifically mention PEEPs, it does require the responsible person for a building to carry out a fire risk assessment for the premises. This includes considering the needs of any persons who may have difficulty escaping in an emergency and, therefore, the creation of a PEEP for that individual.



How EC Safety Solutions Can Help

At EC Safety Solutions, we can assist businesses in developing comprehensive PEEPs to ensure compliance with UK fire safety laws and best practices. Our services include:

- Workplace Fire Risk Assessments
- Customised PEEP development and documentation
- Training for fire wardens and evacuation support teams
- Regular fire drills and compliance audits

If your business needs guidance on PEEPs or support in meeting legal requirements, contact us today!

Prioritising safety ensures that no one is left behind in an emergency. Let's create an inclusive and secure workplace for all

Legal Requirements & Regulations for PEEPs

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

- Employers and responsible persons must ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can evacuate safely.

Equality Act 2010

- Employers must make reasonable adjustments for disabled individuals, ensuring equal access to evacuation procedures.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

- Employers have a duty to provide a safe environment for all employees and visitors, including safe evacuation measures.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Requires employers to carry out risk assessments that consider emergency procedures, including evacuation planning for disabled employees.



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- [CCTV captures moment welder crushed at Sunderland shipyard](#)
- [Wood company fined more than £1million after two workers injured](#)
- [Roofer given suspended sentence after man falls from scaffold](#)