

## Welcome

At EC Safety Solutions, we are dedicated to ensuring your workplace is safe and compliant with the latest regulations. This month, we focus on the **Importance of Risk Assessments at Work**.

As always, we hope you find this newsletter useful and welcome any feedback you may have. We would also like to encourage readers to actively contribute to the newsletter by providing company updates, suggesting newsletter topics or by sharing your good news stories or safety initiatives.

### Introduction:

#### Understanding Risk Assessments: Why They Matter

Risk assessments are a critical component of workplace safety, playing a key role in identifying potential hazards and preventing accidents. By evaluating the risks associated with workplace activities, employers can take proactive steps to minimise dangers, protect employees, and ensure a safe working environment.

#### Legal Obligations:

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 employers are legally required to assess and manage the risks to employees and others affected by their activities. Failure to conduct proper risk assessments can lead to legal consequences, including fines and penalties.



### Key Benefits of Risk Assessments

- **Prevents Accidents and Injuries:** Identifying hazards before they cause harm is the most effective way to prevent workplace accidents.
- **Improves Workplace Morale:** Employees feel more secure when they know their safety is prioritised. This can lead to higher job satisfaction and productivity.
- **Cost Savings:** Preventing accidents reduces costs associated with workplace injuries, such as medical expenses, compensation claims, and lost productivity.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** Regular risk assessments help ensure that your organisation meets all legal health and safety requirements.

### How to Conduct an Effective Risk Assessment

Look around your workplace and think about what may cause harm (these are called hazards).

1. **Identify Hazards:** Start by pinpointing anything that could cause harm, such as machinery, chemicals, or unsafe practices.
2. **Determine Who Might Be Harmed:** Consider all individuals who might be affected, including employees, contractors, and visitors.
3. **Evaluate Risks:** Assess the likelihood of harm occurring and the potential severity of the impact. Then, decide on the necessary control measures to reduce or eliminate the risk.
4. **Implement Control Measures:** Put in place the steps needed to manage the identified risks. This may involve training, protective equipment, or changes in procedures.
5. **Record and Review:** Document your findings and review the assessment regularly, especially when new processes or equipment are introduced.

**When conducting Risk Assessments** take a look back at your accident and ill health records as these can help you identify less obvious hazards. Also consider hazards to health, such as manual handling, use of chemicals and causes of work-related stress. For each hazard identified, think about how employees, contractors, visitors or members of the public might be harmed. Remember vulnerable workers. Some workers have particular requirements, for example young workers, migrant workers, new or expectant mothers and people with disabilities.

# EC SAFETY SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER



Topic of the Month – The Importance of Risk Assessments at Work

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## What can you do to help

### Control the risks

Look at what you're already doing, and the controls you already have in place. Ask yourself:

- Can I get rid of the hazard altogether?
- If not, how can I control the risks so that harm is unlikely?

### If you need further controls, consider:

- Redesigning the job / process
- Replacing the materials, machinery or process
- Organising your work to reduce exposure to the materials, machinery or process
- Identifying and implementing practical measures needed to work safely
- Providing personal protective equipment and making sure workers wear it

**Record your findings** - If you employ 5 or more people, you must record your significant findings.



**We are always pleased to receive positive feedback for our news letter, like the below from, Ian Taylor, Manager, Breitling UK.**

I just wanted to drop you an email to say I think these newsletters are a great idea and I have been reading them all so far and learning new things along the way. The links to the additional resources are great and I have often used them to look into items in the news letter further.

### EC Safety Solutions Updates:

We would like to welcome [Shanna Brown](#) to the team who has recently joined EC Safety Solutions after a mandatory probation period. Shanna brings a wealth of H&S experience to the team, on joining the team Shanna said: "I am thrilled to be joining EC Safety Solutions as a Health and Safety Advisor/Safety Coordinator. With a background in both construction and manufacturing sectors, I bring a passion for driving positive change in workplace safety. Known for my proactive approach and dedication to employee well-being, I am committed to creating safer working environments".

### In the News

- [Ten HSE stories you might have missed this summer](#)
- [Company fined £1m as employee suffers serious injuries](#)
- [Companies fined after dad crushed to death by machine](#)
- [Court upholds WM Morrisons Ltd conviction after adjustments not made for vulnerable worker](#)
- [www.ecsafetysolutions.com](http://www.ecsafetysolutions.com)

## What reasonably practicable means

Put the controls you have identified in place. You're not expected to eliminate all risks but you need to do everything 'reasonably practicable' to protect people from harm. This means balancing the level of risk against the measures needed to control the real risk in terms of money, time or trouble.

**Remember** Risk Assessments are not just a box-ticking exercise, they are a fundamental practice for creating a safe workplace. By investing time and resources into thorough risk assessments, you safeguard your employees' well-being and the overall success of your business.

### Useful Resources:

- [HSE Risk Assessment Instruction Video](#)
- [Common Work Place Risks](#)
- [Regulation 3 - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations](#)
- [HSE Risk Assessment Template Document](#)
- [HSG 65 - Managing Health and Safety](#)

### If you need Help with Risk Assessments?

At EC Safety Solutions, we offer comprehensive support to help you conduct effective risk assessments. Contact us to learn more about how we can assist you in maintaining a safe and compliant workplace

**Training:** We deliver the [IOSH Managing Safely Course](#), which has dedicated serials to assist in the production of workplace risk assessments. We also offer a [Risk Assessment eLearning course](#).