

Guide to Health and safety regulations

Specific regulations govern health and safety at work, and an employer will be negligent for failing to comply with them. This document acts as an overview and a guide of the key areas :

Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992: Requires the employer to assess any risk posed by manual handling (for example lifting, pushing or pulling a load by hand), and where appropriate either to remove the need to do it, such as by providing equipment, or to reduce the risk of injury as much as reasonably practicable.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 - Deals with ensuring machinery, tools and equipment are suitable, properly maintained and used properly, and that employees are trained and supervised in using them.

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 - Deals with the state of the workplace itself, including heat, light and ventilation. It also deals with the condition of workplace floors, and so is very commonly used in cases where someone has slipped or fallen at work.

Work at Height Regulations 2005 - Governs the safety of working at height, for example on building sites or up ladders. This requires employers to avoid work at height if possible, and if not, to adopt measures to avoid the risk of falling in the first place, and then to reduce the risk of injury if there is a fall.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 - Sets out who is responsible for safety on site (often there will be several companies working), and what risks, including many specific to construction sites, must be addressed and how the site can be made as safe as possible.

There are a number of other regulations that are sometimes used besides these. Often a particular industry which has specific risks, such as the nuclear industry or those working with dangerous chemicals or biohazards, have their own specific rules.

Contact us

For further information on the above and advice on making a personal injury claim, please contact our Personal Injury team who will be delighted to assist on 01733 882800 or email info@hcsolicitors.co.uk .