

Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2010

Concentrating on the hazards typically associated with working in colder conditions and adverse weather.

Winter Working



In Winter you should ensure your workers remain safe during the colder, darker months.

Cold weather and shorter periods of daylight mean there is more potential for accidents to happen. With a little planning these can be avoided.

Cold weather can make your Employees feel uncomfortable and present other hazards such as slipping and tripping in icy conditions.

Companies have a responsibility to provide adequate facilities:

- Ensure that water supplies do not freeze.
- Ensure gas heaters have adequate ventilation - Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer.
- Where appropriate provide drying rooms for wet clothing.
- Hot water for washing is more important than usual.
- Portable chemical toilets should only be used to support workers for short durations.
- Those exposed to vibration from power tools should improve their blood circulation by keeping warm and dry, where necessary wearing gloves, a hat, waterproofs and heating pads if available.

Find further information via HSE:

- www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg244.pdf



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helping you manage your risks

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Respiratory Protection

Face Fit Testing



Do you expose your workers to hazards where you may need to rely on Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) as a way of controlling exposure to airborne particulates?

If you provide your workers with Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) such as Dust Masks or other forms of Respirators then you need to:

- Assess your requirements.
- Select the right RPE.
- Train your staff to wear RPE correctly.
- Monitor staff to ensure that it is worn correctly.
- Undertake a Face Fit Testing programme.
- Record all Tests for all Respirators for all Employees.
- Monitor RPE selection and use in the workplace.
- Consider if Health Surveillance is required.
- Review effectiveness of programme.
- Obtain Employee feedback.

Find further information via HSE:

- www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg53.htm
- www.hse.gov.uk/news/2009/fit-testing-poster.pdf
- www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/fod/oc/200-299/282_28.pdf

Winter Driving



Are you and your Employees who may be driving or operating other vehicles on your behalf prepared for the winter conditions ahead? Simple planning can reduce the hazards presented:

- Check and replace the anti-freeze in vehicle radiators.
- Clean all lights and check the bulbs.
- Ensure windscreen is clean.
- Ensure regular cleaning of mirrors to maintain all-round visibility.
- Replace the battery if it's not reliable.
- Ensure tyres are correctly inflated and replace them if the tread has reached the legal minimum.
- Carry a severe weather emergency kit.
- Carry additional clothing and welfare provisions.
- Monitor traffic and weather conditions.
- Plan journeys.
- Obtain vehicle breakdown assistance.
- Carry a mobile phone and appropriate emergency contact numbers.

Find further information:

- www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg382.pdf
- www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/2244.aspx