



news

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Contractor Control

Ensuring the competency of those you employ is a legal requirement. This relates not only to Employees but also your Contractors.

If you employ Contractors to work on your behalf then you can become liable for their acts or omissions.

The approach to managing who you employ can be established in a Contractor Control Policy.

To determine competence you can obtain information from potential Contractors such as:

- Health and Safety Policy.
- Risk Assessments.
- Method Statements.
- Project Experience.
- Insurances.
- Training Records.

You should assess whether items you receive are suitable for purpose for the type of work you are engaging them to do.

Find further information via HSE:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg368.pdf

Work at Height

In the UK there have been many recent accidents involving falling from height.

Ensuring the safety of your workforce when working at height is vitally important. A place is "at height" if a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level.

Follow a simple hierarchy to manage and select equipment for work at height:

- Avoid working at height (if possible).
- Use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where you cannot avoid working at height; and
- Where they cannot eliminate the risk of a fall, use work equipment or other measures to minimise the distance and consequences of a fall should one occur.

The *Work at Height Regulations 2005* require:

- All work at height is properly planned and organised.
- All work at height takes account of weather conditions that could endanger health and safety.
- Those involved in work at height are trained and competent;
- The place where work at height is done is safe.
- Equipment for work at height is appropriately inspected.
- The risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled; and
- The risks from falling objects are properly controlled.

Find further information via HSE:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg401.pdf

Asbestos Awareness

Regular monitoring and feedback is essential. The hazards of exposure to Asbestos are well documented. There are risks of exposure if you work in certain industries especially demolition, construction, installation services and fit out contractors.

You must ensure that all those workers who could be exposed, even by accident, are given awareness training.

This training should include:

- What Asbestos is and its nature and extent of use.
- Likely locations.
- Asbestos types (and colours).
- Likely routes of entry and consequences.
- Statistics.
- Those at risk of exposure.
- Discovery procedures.
- Management techniques.

Find further Information via HSE:
www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos



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