

Unit 201: Health and safety in building services engineering

Outcome 1

Health and safety legislation







Why is health and safety so important?

Warning: some of the following images show graphic details of injuries sustained in the workplace.



Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

- Principle piece of legislation
- Lays down the requirements for the management of health and safety at work.

All people at work:

- Employers
- Employees
- self-employed
- general public

People and activities – not premises and processes.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Main objectives

1. Health and safety of **all** people at work.
2. Protect others from risks at work.
3. Control dangerous substances.
4. Control dangerous emissions.

The main people responsible at work are the employer and employee.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

It makes health, safety and welfare **everyone's** responsibility. The local authority and the HSE work closely together.

Employers have responsibility to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) – hard hats, gloves, eye protection etc.

A Health and Safety Policy must be produced if a company employs five or more people.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The duties of the employee are:

- To take reasonable care of the health and safety of self and others
- To comply with the employer's health and safety policy
- To not recklessly interfere with anything that may affect health and safety.

Employers can be prosecuted under the Health and Safety Act.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Enforcement

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE officers inspect sites:

- Guidance, advice, photos, samples, talk
- Informal action – advise
- Improvement notice – specific action (what, why and when)
- Prohibition notice – serious risk (stop until)
- Prosecution – failure.

Other legislation

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

- For construction industry
- Improve planning and management of projects
- Identify hazards early on, to eliminate or reduce them
- Target effort where it would be beneficial
- Also governs welfare on site (WC and washrooms)
- Appoint a CDM co-ordinator
- CDM will also make sure the main contractor provides the welfare facilities on site.

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations

- The correct provision and monitoring of PPE.

Other legislation

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

- COSHH
- Protection against illness caused by hazardous substances
- Risk assess
- Implement precautions
- Prevent, control and monitor exposure
- Training and leaflets.

COSHH information is found on the data sheet, as well as any container.

Other legislation

The Electricity at Work Regulations

Legal responsibility on employers and employees to ensure fixed and portable electrical equipment is tested and maintained.

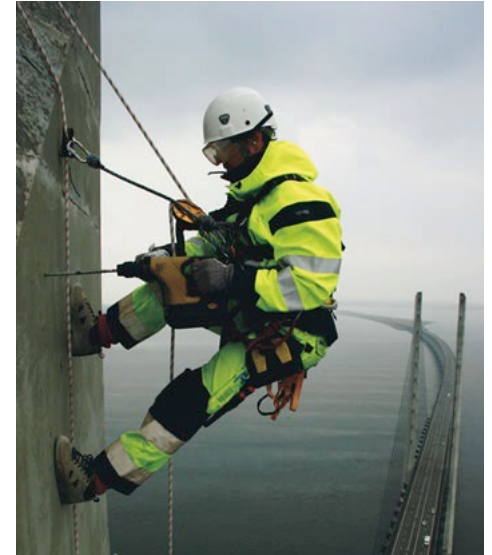
- Inspections on equipment – safe to use
- Competent
- Cables and connections
- Earth continuity
- Fuse
- Insulation
- PAT testing (every three months)
- Labels to prove.



Other legislation

The Work at Heights Regulations

- Applies to all work at height when there is a risk of falling
- Guards and fall arresters
- Harnesses
- Planning
- Risk assess
- Equipment inspections.





Other legislation

Manual Handling Operations Regulations

- Lifting, lowering, pushing, pulling and carrying
- Risk assess
- Planning
- Employees have responsibility to use mechanical aids.



Other legislation

The Safety Signs and Signals Regulations

- Whenever and wherever there is a risk.

The Control of Lead at Work Regulations

- Any work that exposes a person to lead – ingested, inhaled, absorbed
- PPE
- Training and information.

The Control of Asbestos Regulations

- Prohibits the use of asbestos
- Asbestos may be left in situ, if in good condition and labelled.

Other legislation

Building Services Specific Legislation
(Water, gas, electricity, heating and ventilation, and telecommunication)

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

- Drinking water (contamination, waste, undue consumption, misuse and erroneous measurement).

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998

- Installation, maintenance and use of gas
- Prevent CO poisoning.

The 17th Edition IEE Regulations (BS7671)

- Design, installation, inspection and maintenance of electrical installations.

Other legislation

Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations

- POWER
- All hand and power tools – **competent** person
- Guards and protection.

Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations

- Site access and walkways
- Site mess huts, changing facilities, drying facilities
- Number of toilet facilities.

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations

- Adequate first aid facilities and competent person
- Any van on site must have a first aid kit.

Competent person

A person who has been trained, assessed and gained a certificate to prove competency.

- Cartridge fixing device
- Unvented installation
- Local authority installation
- Site vehicles
- First aid.

If you are using any specialist piece of equipment on site, training must have been completed, and you must have been proved **competent**, or you must be in possession of a certificate which denotes you as a **certified operative**.