



Protector Guidance

Managing Slips, Trips and Falls in the Workplace

Introduction

Slips, trips, and falls are major workplace hazards, leading to injuries, financial costs, and productivity losses. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), they are among the top causes of non-fatal workplace injuries.

Preventing these accidents is crucial for a safer work environment. By raising awareness, identifying hazards, improving maintenance, and educating employees, we can reduce their occurrence. This guide provides the knowledge and tools to prevent slips, trips, and falls, fostering a culture of safety and productivity.

The Issues

Accident statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the UK emphasize the need to prevent slips, trips, and falls in the workplace. In 2019/2020, these incidents were the leading cause of non-fatal workplace injuries, with around 29,000 reported cases. They often result in serious injuries and significant financial costs, estimated at £511 million in lost productivity and expenses in 2018/2019.

High-risk industries include construction and manufacturing. Prioritising preventative measures like maintenance, hazard identification, employee training, and safety protocols is essential to mitigate risks and ensure a safe work environment.

Defending these types of losses can be particularly challenging with the key claims handling issues including:

- **Lack of Documentation:** Insufficient records can weaken defence against claims.
- **Inadequate Inspections:** Failure to regularly inspect and address hazards can be used against the business in claims.
- **Poor Accident Investigation:** Incomplete or biased investigations can undermine claims defence.

Identification

Identifying potential hazards is the first step in managing risks and strengthening claims defensibility:

- **Wet or Slippery Floors:** Document all instances of spills and cleaning activities.
- **Uneven Surfaces:** Keep records of flooring inspections and maintenance.
- **Obstacles:** Maintain logs of housekeeping practices and clutter management.
- **Poor Lighting:** Record lighting inspections and any corrective actions taken.

Next Steps

After identifying hazards, take the following steps to mitigate risks and enhance claims defensibility:

1. **Document Cleaning and Maintenance:** Keep detailed records of all cleaning schedules, spill responses, and floor maintenance activities.
2. **Regular Inspections:** Conduct and document regular inspections of the workplace to identify and address hazards.
3. **Accident Investigation:** Implement a thorough and unbiased accident investigation process. Document all findings and corrective actions.
4. **Training Records:** Maintain records of all employee training sessions on hazard recognition and reporting.

Risk Management Advice

Effective risk management not only prevents incidents but also strengthens claims defensibility:

- **Inspection Records:** Regularly updated inspection records demonstrate proactive risk management and can be crucial in defending against claims.
- **Accident Investigation:** A thorough investigation process helps identify root causes and prevent recurrence. Detailed reports can provide evidence in claims defence.
- **Training Documentation:** Records of employee training show that the business has taken steps to educate staff on safety practices.

Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure all necessary steps are taken to manage risks and enhance claims defensibility:

- ✓ Document all cleaning schedules and spill responses.
- ✓ Keep detailed records of floor maintenance activities.
- ✓ Conduct and document regular workplace inspections.
- ✓ Implement a thorough accident investigation process.
- ✓ Maintain records of all accident investigations and corrective actions.
- ✓ Keep logs of housekeeping practices.

- ✓ Record lighting inspections and corrective actions.
- ✓ Maintain records of employee training sessions on safety practices.

Further information and guidance on this subject is available from:

The Health and Safety Executive - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/>



For clarification or further information please contact –

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