

Health and Safety Advice Sheet 4:

SLIPS AND TRIPS

BACKGROUND

Slips & trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work. They occur in almost all workplaces, 95% of major slips result in broken bones and they can also be the initial causes for a range of other accident types such as falls from height.

THE LAW

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 (as amended)

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO COMPLY?

All employers have to assess the risks to employees and others whom may be affected by their work, e.g. visitors and members of the public. This helps to find out what needs to be done to control the risk. It is also needed to satisfy the law.

A five-step approach to risk assessment and slip and trip risks should be among the risks examined.

- **Step 1** Look for slip and trip hazards around the workplace, such as uneven floors, trailing cables, areas that are sometimes slippery due to spillages. Include outdoor areas.
- **Step 2** Decide who might be harmed and how? Who comes into the workplace? Are they at risk? Do you have any control over them? Remember that older people and people with disabilities may be at particular risk.
- **Step 3** Consider the risks. Are the precautions already taken adequate to deal with the risks?
- **Step 4** Record your findings if you have five or more employees.
- **Step 5** Regularly reviews the assessment. If any significant changes take place, make sure existing precautions and management arrangements are still adequate to deal with the risks.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Preventing slips, trips and fall at work (INDG225) HSE
- HSE website (see Slips and Trips): www.hse.gov.uk
- Free HSE Leaflets: www.hse.gov.uk