
Update on HSEs review of the current approach to workplace temperatures

Kate Haire
Radiation Policy Team

Workplace temperatures review – Reminder of the Background



- James Purnell, the previous Secretary of State, asked HSE to carry out a review of the current approach to workplace temperatures and report back by October 2009
- HSE commissioned an independent expert in risk management to conduct the review.
- The review considered a wide range of stakeholder views (through questionnaires and a stakeholder forum back in July) along with other evidence including information on international approaches to the management of workplace temperatures.

Options for possible further action

- Option 0 – No change retain current approach
- Option 1 – Amend ACoP to include upper temperature limit in addition to the lower limit
- Option 2 – Engage with stakeholders and amend guidance
- Option 3(a) Amend the ACoP to include an upper temperature action level or levels
- Option 3(b) Amend the ACoP to refer to an acceptable zone of thermal comfort

Response to the Secretary of State and Next steps



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- HSEs response to the SoS advised that we need to focus our attention on those sectors which are most affected and identify effective steps which can be taken to tackle the issue in key workplaces.
 - At the same time we need to do more work to clarify a number of issues, including establishing the real scale of the problem.
 - HSE propose to work with industry to encourage sectors to produce the guidance



Further information

- The HSE Board paper and a copy of Professor Kemp's report is available on our website at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/hseboard/2009index.htm>

- Further information can be obtained from Kate Haire – 0151 951 3792 or at Kate.Haire@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Points for discussion

- Any examples of good practice employed by small businesses, to manage high temperatures, that we can share?
- Which of the options would you favour?
- Are you able to advise if your members are aware of HSE guidance and if so if it is used and understood?
- Do you have access to information regarding accidents/injuries incurred as a result of exposure to high temperatures?
- Would members be willing to contribute to the development of sector specific guidance?



Thank you for your attention!

Over to you.....