

Health and Safety Executive		Operational Minute	
		OM 2007/02	
Cancellation Date	01/04/2009	Open Government Status	Fully Open
Version No & Date	1: 01/04/2007	Author Unit/Section	Slips & Trips Programme (IR1)

To: All HSE Inspectors and HSAOs covering the Manufacturing Industry

Reducing Slip and Trip Accidents in Manufacturing

This OM provides information on slip and trip issues for HSE Inspectors and HSAOs. This work forms part of the planned delivery of the HSC/E Fit3 Strategic Delivery Programme. Also included in this document is the following appendix:
Appendix A - Inspection and enforcement guidance materials

Background

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Background

Despite all efforts, slip and trip accident rates in manufacturing remain very high. In 2005/06 there were 1538 major injury accidents, 14% of the total number of major injury accidents for slips and trips. Within the manufacturing sector we wish to achieve a 5% reduction in accidents caused by slips on wet or contaminated floors or by trips over obstacles/on uneven or damaged floors. This will not be achieved unless the topic is raised amongst employers and where appropriate enforced on.

The poor performing industries within manufacturing for slips and trips are, in order:- recycling, food and beverages, Basic metals, furniture manufacture, non metallic mineral products, motor vehicles and trailers manufacture (not repair), fabricated metal products, rubber and plastic product manufacture, wood and wood products, textiles, manufacture of other transport equipment and lastly chemical and chemical products. The highest numbers of major injury accidents are still occurring in food manufacturing.

Action Required

Inspectors

Undertake inspection and enforcement of slips and trips in medium to large organisations with high slip and trip accident rates (see second paragraph of 'Background' above). Include LOPP and FOILE premises if slips and trips are highlighted in their engagement plan. For Food Manufacturing inspection further information is contained in SIM 01/2007/01.

There is a misconception that slip and trip accidents just happen, this is rarely the case but on occasion in-depth questioning may be needed in order to identify the problem. During inspections and investigations ensure management systems relating to slips and trips are closely scrutinised. There is an expectation that dutyholders should by now have at least have carried out a slips and trips risk assessment and put controls in place. Where the dutyholder is failing to meet regulatory requirements companies should be dealt with robustly. The expectation is that notices are served in first instance with prosecution considered as necessary. If a notice relating to a change of floor is required or if a prosecution is proposed scientific support should always be requested prior to action being taken.

HSAOs

When visiting small manufacturing businesses, raise awareness of slips and trips if it is an issue for that business. The micro-roughness meter and the SAT (slip assessment tool) can be useful awareness raising aids (see appendix a for more information). When organising events for manufacturing companies, include slips and trips if the audience falls into the 'who to target' category.

Who to target

Use the information supplied above in paragraph 2 of 'Background' and local knowledge to target business where the greatest impact is likely to be achieved.

Key Messages

For manufacturing the following messages are relevant and should be reinforced at visits.

- Slips and Trips aren't funny! They should be treated seriously and in proportion to the injuries and losses that they cause
- Slips and trips are often the cause of other serious or fatal accidents, such as a fall from height, falling into machine etc.
- Simple sensible solutions can eliminate most of the problems
- Personal responsibility and worker participation are essential to make solutions effective – See it, sort it!

Links with Other Projects

This work can and should be bundled with other projects where appropriate. Projects may include: -

Food premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slips and trips in food manufacturing project• Reducing slip and trip accidents caused by floor cleaning
Waste and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspector intervention in the waste/recycling industry
MVR and manufacture of trailers and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control of isocyanates for vehicle paint sprayers in

semi trailers	MVR and manufacture of trailers and semi trailers
Companies where transport accident rates are also high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Goods Safely • Workplace Transport Campaign
Companies where MSD rates are also high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backs
Companies that employ contract-cleaning companies or have employ in-house cleaners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing slip and trip accidents caused by floor cleaning

Programme Support

The slips and trips team can offer advice on many slip and trip issues. Inspectors should request forensic support (via COIN Quick guide to requesting specialist support) if taking a prosecution, issuing a notice which requires a change of flooring, or if in need of general scientific support.

The programme would like to hear about events and other activities and would be happy to arrange publicity on the slips and trips web site. If events are planned, whenever possible, the slips and trips team will arrange for speakers or if not possible, provide presentations which can be delivered by a local inspector. The programme are always on the look out for case studies and would be very interested to hear about changes in practice which secure improvements, potential prosecutions, etc.

Programme Strategy

This project is part of the overarching slips and trips programme strategy.

Resource Required

No specific time has been allocated to this work, but this document is intended to act as an aid for inspectors and HSAOs' as manufacturing is inspected.

Recording

COIN recording details will be notified by FOD.

Completion Dates

This work is ongoing and this document is valid until revoked.

Inspector Competency and Training

Appendix A contains links to various Inspection and enforcement guidance materials. For both inspectors and HSAOs there is also a 1-day over 2 course available on inspecting slips and trips. Check the FOD training prospectus for more information or contact the slips and trips team.

Health and Safety

Visiting staff should, wherever possible, follow the footwear policy set down by the company being visited. For most environments, wearing sensible footwear will reduce the risk of a slip. Avoid walking on very smooth floors contaminated with water or smooth

floors contaminated with grease and or oil type substances, if you have to access these areas, non slip footwear should be worn.

Programme Contacts

Slips and Trips General advice		
Helena Allum	Slips Trips Team	int 530 6323 ext 01752 276323
Mark Thomas	Slips Trips Team	int 522 6686 ext 0207 717 6686
Slips and Trips Scientific support		
Steve Thorpe	HSL	int 524 8344 ext 01298 218344
Paul Lemon	HSL	int 524 8345 ext 01298 218345

Appendix A - Inspection and enforcement guidance materials

Information
Topic pack - Statutory requirements, inspection tips, checklists, enforcement advice and template notices
Advisory Visits on Slips and Trips - Supporting information for HSAO's
Slips and trips web site – causes of slips and trips, prevention of slips and trips, campaigns, case studies, FAQ's
Selecting slip-resistant footwear for use at work
SAT – Slip Assessment Tool useful information
SAT – download the tool
Roughness meter - user guide
Resource centre – Published guidance documents, video clips, research reports, slip and trip guidance in other languages
Food & slips webpage
SIM 01/2007/01 Inspection in Food Factories 2007/08