

Homeworkers

Guidance for employers on health and safety

What do I need to do as an employer?

A lot of work carried out at home is going to be low-risk, office-type work. Of the work equipment used at home, you are only responsible for the equipment you supply.

Work activities at home involving more risk

If your staff work at home doing activities such as working with adhesives or soldering, you will need to consider the particular risks involved in these activities. For example, you will need to check that any equipment you supply to your staff is in good condition and that they have the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) if needed.

There is straightforward guidance on how to carry out a risk assessment on the HSE website (www.hse.gov.uk/risk) as well as online assessment forms that you may find helpful.

Useful general information

- Health and safety made simple: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/manage.htm
- Display screen equipment assessment: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg36.pdf
- Five steps to risk assessment: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf
- Details of how HSE enforces health and safety: www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/enforcepolicy.htm

Useful information for activities at home involving more risk

- Personal protective equipment: www.hse.gov.uk/contact/faqs/ppe.htm
- Working with substances that could be hazardous to health (for work involving adhesives etc): www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.htm
- Working with lead (for soldering work): www.hse.gov.uk/lead/index.htm

Where can you go if you need more help?

There is guidance for employers, employees and self-employed people on the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk

Help is also available through trade unions, employers' organisations, Business Link (www.businesslink.gov.uk), the Directgov website (www.direct.gov.uk) and trade associations.

Advice on personal security when working alone is also available from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust: www.suzylamplugh.org

Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This leaflet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

A web version of this document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg226.pdf.

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