

Health and Safety Executive "Falls and Trips in Construction 2007" Campaign

Deaths attributed to falls are still the biggest cause of fatal injury facing the UK Construction industry with 24 of the 59 worker deaths in 2005 / 06 resulting from falls from height. In addition to this, there are over 4,000 cases being reported to the HSE every year with serious injuries such as broken bones and fractured skulls. More than 50% of these incidents involved falls from height or tripping over materials. As a result of these injuries [Employer's Liability Insurance](#) Claims are costing construction companies millions each year.

A very high proportion of these injuries are easily avoidable and the Health and Safety Executive have made it a priority to greatly reduce the impact these injuries have not only on the construction industry (through absenteeism and [Employer's liability](#) claims), but also on the lives of the workers and their families.

Continuing the work of the Fit Out Campaign 2005 and the Watch Your Step 2006 Initiative Health and Safety Executive Construction Division Inspectors visited nearly 1300 construction sites and 1600 Contractors during the months of June and July looking at issues such as falls and good order. Resulting from these inspections 244 Prohibition Notices were issued on work at height and good order grounds. A further 39 Improvement Notices were also issued for the same reasons. On top of these another 143 Notices were issued for other serious concerns. Some of these cases were deemed so severe by Health and Safety inspectors that further investigations have been warranted which could lead to prosecution.

Almost 33% of sites and 25% of contractors inspected were found to be operating below Health and Safety standards. Health and Safety Inspectors have the power to issue notices such as the Prohibition and Improvement Notices, which mean that work must stop immediately or improvement is required within a specified timeframe respectively.

Insurance is affected by the lack of health and safety and you may find your [Public Liability](#) policy premium increasing.

Working At Height

Working at height is the largest single cause of fatality within the construction industry. Regardless of this 1 in 6 sites inspected were deemed to be unsafe and issued with Prohibition Notices.

Insurance companies tend to charge higher [Public and Employers Liability](#) insurance premiums if you work at height, use heat or work with water. If there is a higher frequency of claims then you may find yourself spending a lot of time trying to find a company that will be able provide a liability insurance quotation for your business.

Slips & Trips

Slips and Trips have been proven to be the biggest cause of serious injury. Most of these injuries occur through untidy walkways and could easily be avoided. This issue should not be overlooked as Health and Safety Inspectors ordered almost 40 Enforcement Notices regarding Good Order issues.



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Planning

Good Health and Safety practices within the construction industry make good business sense, for instance your public liability insurance quotes will drop considerably. Liability Insurance like all insurance is based upon risk, if you have Health and Safety measures in place your employees will be less at risk therefore your employers liability insurance quotes will be less. In fact our exclusive Aviva Liability Insurance Policy even rewards clients with good Health and Safety measures through additional discounts. Click here for a highly competitive [Public Liability Insurance](#) Quote.



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