

## Research has shown that, for every £1 of insured losses due to an accident, there can be as much as £36 of uninsured costs payable by the employer

Source: Health and Safety Executive

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, all employers have a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees. This duty has wide-ranging implications and the penalties for failing to meet health and safety legislation can be extensive.

Apart from the costs to your business of any downtime as a result of an accident in the work place, any company found to be in breach of health and safety regulations can face severe fines and legal expenses. The Health and Safety Executive calculates that work related injuries and illness cost UK industrial and commercial companies between 5% and 10% of their gross trading profits.

## Protecting your working environment

All businesses have a legal, moral and financial duty to those who have a stake in their company (including employees, contractors and customers, as well as the general public) to adhere to current health and safety requirements.

**Specifically, the Health and Safety at Work Act requires employers to:**

- > Produce a written health and safety policy
- > Provide a safe working environment
- > Provide safe handling, storage and transport of articles and substances
- > Provide information, instruction and training
- > Provide safe premises
- > Provide safe access and exit.

The increasing profile of risk management as a corporate governance issue has led to an increased interest by all stakeholders in the standards applied by companies and organisations.

One of the most effective ways to gauge risks and generate an appropriate health and safety policy is to carry out a comprehensive health and safety audit.

Alliance Risk Services can undertake an in-depth review of all aspects of health and safety within an organisation, based on the Health and Safety Executive's model HSG65 – 'Successful Health and Safety Management'.

### Key benefits of the health and safety audit

- > Offers a systematic, critical review of each area
- > Identifies inconsistencies and highlights areas of strength and weakness
- > Makes recommendations for improvements
- > Can significantly reduce the potential for future injuries and losses
- > Provides you with a benchmark for future review and audit.

# The Health and Safety Audit

**Our flexible approach is designed to fit the specific requirements of your business.** Working in conjunction with key members of your organisation, one of our qualified health and safety consultants will undertake the review.

Initial discussions will give you an opportunity to discuss what form the audit will take and how you'll receive the key findings. We will also consult staff such as: Financial or Insurance Manager; Works or Production Manager; Health and Safety Manager; Supervisors and Safety Representatives; 'Shop floor' staff. A detailed report will be provided based on the findings of this comprehensive health and safety audit.

Moreover, in order to make the report as practical as possible, any recommendations that we make are structured as a prioritised action plan. Then, if you need any assistance in addressing any highlighted health and safety issues, we can come back and work with your personnel to implement our recommendations.

## What does the audit cover?

**Alliance Risk Services possess a great deal of industry experience and expertise, which makes our recommendations both highly relevant and effective.** As well as carrying out a detailed health and safety audit, our consultants can also provide support services, including staff training.

### The health and safety audit covers all relevant areas:

- > it starts with a review of the health and safety management systems that your organisation currently has in place (i.e. written procedures and manuals)
- > it then moves on to look for evidence that your company is following and complying with these systems and standards, or evidence of issues not being identified, addressed or managed
- > the audit will also assess just how effectively health and safety issues are communicated, together with how well a company is structured and organised to manage and implement the practical elements of health and safety.

## The report

### Our written report confirms the findings of our audit and covers the following areas:

- > Evaluation of health and safety performance
- > Health and safety management systems
- > Risk assessments
- > Training and training records
- > Safe systems of work
- > Work equipment
- > Chemicals
- > Welfare facilities
- > Fire safety
- > General safety controls
- > Control of contractors and visitors.

## Ongoing support

### In addition to providing health and safety audits, Alliance Risk Services can also provide the following services:

- > Health and safety systems and documentation
- > General risk assessments
- > Fire Risk assessments (now a legal requirement)
- > Manual handling risk assessments
- > VDU assessments
- > Accident investigation and prevention
- > Noise assessments
- > Asbestos surveys and management
- > Construction Regulation Compliance
- > Inspections
- > Training.

## How we work

