



Construction and the Built Environment – Unit 1

1.8 Health and Safety (1 of 2)

A **risk** is the likelihood that a person may be harmed if they are exposed to a hazard.

A **hazard** is anything with the potential to cause harm.

Construction workers are at risk from a variety of hazards including:

- construction equipment and vehicles
- working with machinery
- working at height
- manual handling and slips
- trips and falls
- working in enclosed spaces.

Employers have responsibility for the safe operation of sites and may be taken to court or have sites closed down if they are found responsible for accidents.

The public are at risk when close to a construction site or if they gain access to the site, from:

- harmful materials
- site traffic
- construction equipment and vehicles.

Risk assessment is a step-by-step process for controlling health and safety risks caused by hazards in the workplace:

1. **Identify hazards** – The workplace is assessed for situations and activities that may cause harm.
2. **Assess the risks** – What is the likelihood of harm and how serious is it?
3. **Control the risks** – Describe and assess the effectiveness of the measures already in place to eliminate or minimise risks.
4. **Record your findings** – All construction companies that employ five or more people must record their findings.
5. **Review the controls** – The control measures put in place must be reviewed on a regular basis to make sure that they are working.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION:

HASAWA (*Health and Safety at Work Act*) sets out responsibilities in every aspect of health and safety, from working safely with machinery to working at height and with hazardous materials.

HSE (*The Health and Safety Executive*) is the governmental appointed body responsible for enforcing workplace health and safety legislation in the UK.

COSHH (*The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations*) protect workers from ill health when working with specific substances and materials.

RIDDOR (*Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations*) require employers, or persons responsible for health and safety to report and keep records of certain injuries and incidents that happen at work.

PUWER (*Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations*) place duties on people and companies who own, operate or have control over work equipment.

COAR (*The Control Of Asbestos Regulations*) asbestos is an extremely hazardous material that can cause cancer and other serious medical conditions.

MHOR (*Manual Handling Operations Regulations*) must be followed to prevent and manage the risks from the lifting and moving of heavy loads, known as 'manual handling'.