

Unit 201: Health and safety in building services engineering

Health and safety legislation

Definitions

- **Employer** – a person or body that employs one or more persons under a contract of employment
- **Employee** – a person employed by an employer under a contract of employment
- **Organisation** – an organisation is an entity comprising multiple people, such as an institution or an association, that has a collective goal and is linked to an external environment
- **Client** – a person or organisation using the services of the company; in other words, the customer
- **Statutory** – binding in law; it is a criminal act to contravene something that is statutory
- **Non-statutory** – not legally binding; however, many non-statutory regulations are based on statutory ones so breaking them could mean that a law may have been broken somewhere

Health and Safety at Work etc Act

This covers all places where work is carried out. The 'etc' was added to cover voluntary work, etc. All persons are responsible for their own and others' safety.

Employers' responsibilities

- The working conditions and standards of hygiene are appropriate.
- The plant, tools and equipment are properly maintained.
- The necessary safety equipment – such as personal protective equipment, dust and fume extractors, and machine guards – is available and properly used.
- The workers are trained to use the equipment and plant safely.

Health and Safety at Work etc Act

This covers all places where work is carried out. The 'etc' was added to cover voluntary work, etc. All persons are responsible for their own and others' safety.

Employees' responsibilities

- Take reasonable care to avoid injury to themselves or others as a result of their own work activity.
- Cooperate with their employer, helping her/him to comply with the requirements of the Act.
- Not to interfere with or misuse anything provided to protect their health and safety.

The Electricity at Work Regulations

- There are currently 33 regulations.
- 1–16 and 29 are most relevant to most electricians.
- This is a legal (statutory) document; wiring regulations (BS 7671) are not.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations

- Regulations place duties on employers and employees including those who are clients, designers, principal contractors or other contractors.
- Many of the duties overlap with those of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) but, where they go beyond CDM (for example concerning young people and expectant mothers), additional measures will be needed to comply fully with MHSWR.

Workplace (Health and Safety and Welfare) Regulations

- People in control of non-domestic premises have a duty towards people who are not their employees but use their premises. The Regulations expand on these duties and are intended to protect the health and safety of everyone in the workplace, and ensure that adequate welfare facilities are provided for people at work.
- The Regulations aim to ensure that workplaces meet the health, safety and welfare needs of all members of a workforce, including people with disabilities. Workstations should be made accessible for disabled people.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations

- Covers anything used in the workplace that could be considered hazardous to health.
- Includes chemicals, asbestos, cements, oils, sprays, etc.

Working at Height Regulations

- More people are killed and injured by falls than by any other cause.
- This document summarises what you need to do to comply with the Working at Height Regulations 2005.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations

- These regulations require an assessment of PPE requirements to be carried out.
- The employer must supply all appropriate PPE.
- The employee must wear the appropriate PPE.

Manual Handling Operations Regulations

- These aim to reduce the very large incidence of injury and ill health caused by the manual handling of loads at work.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations

- These regulations cover the supply and use of equipment in the workplace.
- Equipment must be safe to use and used safely by the operatives.

Control of asbestos at Work Regulations

- The name, again, clearly explains the coverage of the regulations.
- Asbestos is an extremely dangerous material, when disturbed, and any possible exposure to or presence of asbestos should be reported immediately.

Environmental Protection Act

- The EPA is an Act which defines, within England, Wales and Scotland, the fundamental structure and authority for waste management and control of emissions into the environment.

Hazardous Waste Regulations

- These regulations have been introduced to control the storage, transport and disposal of hazardous waste to ensure it is appropriately managed and any risks are limited.

Pollution Prevention and Control Act

- Under this new Act, local authorities are required to regulate the smaller industries termed Part A2 and Part B installations. Whereas the Environment Agency regulates the larger industries, which are known as Part A1 installations.
- Emissions to all environmental media must be controlled from Part A1 and A2 installations and such installations are also required to account for energy efficiency and to control against noise pollution. Part B installations, on the other hand, are regulated for emissions to air only.

Control of Pollution Act

- The aim of this Act is to deal with a variety of environmental issues, including waste on land, water pollution, abandoned mines, noise pollution and the prevention of atmospheric pollution.

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations

- These regulations place a duty on employers to reduce the risk to their employees' health by controlling the noise levels to which they are exposed whilst at work.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE)

- These regulations regulate the management of electrical and electronic waste.
- A key objective of the WEEE Regulations is to reduce the amount of WEEE that goes to landfill sites.
- This is achieved by placing an extended responsibility on producers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment. Under the extended responsibility obligations, producers are required to finance the collection, treatment and recovery of WEEE.
- The WEEE Regulations also place an obligation on distributors to offer to consumers a take-back system where WEEE items can be disposed of free of charge.
- There are two types of take-back systems, and distributors of EEE items must offer one of these schemes to their customers.

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The end