Risk Assessment

SAFETY FOOTWEAR

There are a variety of aspects warehouse and safety managers must consider to help create a safer environment for their workforce.

In this checklist, we will cover potential hazards, legislation and other factors to help you determine what's important when choosing the right safety footwear for your staff.

To get the most from this checklist, take a walk through your workplace; include the outside grounds as appropriate, and speak to workers and others to get their perspective. It's important to act when a risk has been identified.

SECTION 1: POTENTIAL HAZARDS

There are a range of hazards that safety footwear can protect workers from.

Consider the following when assessing workplace hazards:

1. Are there any sharp objects that may penetrate the surface of the footwear (especially the sole)?
2. Is there a risk of falling heavy objects that could crush the worker's foot?
3. Are workers exposed to elements that may be absorbed through the shoe (i.e. water, oil, liquids, etc.)?
4. Is there a need to prevent static electricity build up?
5. Are workers exposed to any extreme hot or cold temperatures?
6. Are workers exposed to indoor or outdoor environments, or both?
7. Are there any slippery floor surfaces, or surfaces that may become slippery easily?
8. Are there any areas where a worker may easily twist or sprain their ankle?

SECTION 2: SAFETY FOOTWEAR LEGISLATION

There are several laws and regulations relating to protective footwear. The main legislation being the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations of 1992.

Consider the following:

1. Is footwear properly assessed for use to ensure proper fit for each worker?
2. Is footwear cared for and stored properly to maintain its integrity and effectiveness in protecting each worker?
3. Is footwear provided with clear instructions on how to use effectively?
4. Are workers wearing their footwear correctly?

SECTION 3: CHOOSING THE RIGHT FOOTWEAR FOR YOUR WORKPLACE

Assessing safety footwear needs for your specific work environment can be tough. Keep in mind that whatever footwear you choose it must meet the workplace safety standards outlined in Section 2 and eliminate all reasonable safety risks to the worker given the environment in which they are working.

When selecting footwear for your workforce, consider the following:

1. What are the risks given the wearer's work conditions?
2. How long must the worker wear the footwear for?
3. Will the footwear cater for the size and fitting needs of all wearers?
4. Does the footwear meet EN ISO 20345 Standards for work safety?
5. Does the footwear carry the CE stamp?
6. Is the footwear able to endure a variety of weather conditions to keep the worker comfortable and protected.
7. Do any employees have health concerns that may be affected by their footwear (e.g. plantar fasciitis)?

View our helpful guide 'How to choose the right safety footwear for your business'.

For more information on selecting the most appropriate safety footwear for your warehouse environment, and to ensure that your requirements meet the aforementioned standards, please **contact us for more information**. Our team will be happy to review your business' risk profile and provide expert advice on the right footwear for your staff.

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safety footwear