

Workplace (Health Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992

Legislation

Introduction

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 (WHSWR) came into force on 1st January 1993 and gave effect in Great Britain to the requirement of EC Directive 89/654/EEC concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace. The Regulations do not apply to construction work sites, but they do apply to facilities, design and equipment in buildings used as workplaces and modifications and extensions of such buildings.

Specific requirements for the health, safety and welfare on construction sites are included within the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM).

A full copy of the Regulations can be printed and/or downloaded from: legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1992/3004/contents

Note that Regulation 13(1) to (4) was revoked by the [Working at Height Regulations 2005](#).

Summary of the Content

The regulations apply to all places of work, unless other legislation takes precedent, such as the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM). The WHSWR are required to be taken account of by designers of workplaces under CDM.

Regulation 5 Maintenance of workplace, and equipment, devices and systems

The employer and/or the person in control of premises must maintain the workplace and contents so that they remain safe and without risk to health and fully comply with the detailed requirements of the regulations. Certain items will require a formal system of maintenance, such as emergency lighting, fencing, fixed equipment used for window cleaning, anchorage points for safety harnesses, window opening limiting devices, powered doors, escalators, moving walkways, etc.

Regulation 6 Ventilation

Ventilation is required to be supplied to a workplace in the form of purified or fresh air. The extent of the ventilation required will be determined by the work being performed and the equipment/plant installed. By whatever means the appropriate ventilation is provided it must provide a comfortable, breathable atmosphere without causing uncomfortable draughts. In most instances opening windows would be sufficient.