

WAREHOUSE RISK ASSESSMENTS

Introduction

Warehouses like any industrial facility can be dangerous places to work in, especially with the movement of fork-lift trucks, the risk of slips and trips and people working at height.

Thus, in order to ensure a safe and secure environment companies need to undertake risk assessments regularly.

A full description of risk assessment is included on page 341

Note that:

- a hazard can be anything – whether work materials, equipment, work methods or practices – that has the potential to cause harm;
- a risk is the chance, high or low, that somebody may be harmed by the hazard.

When to use it

To ensure the safety of all visitors to and staff working in a warehouse.

How to use it

The guiding principles that should be considered throughout the risk assessment process can be broken down into a series of steps.

Step 1 – Identifying hazards and those at risk

Step 2 – Evaluating and prioritizing risks.

Step 3 – Deciding on preventive action.

Step 4 – Taking action.

Step 5 – Monitoring and reviewing.

Further information regarding risk assessment tools

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions/risk-assessment-tools>

<http://osha.europa.eu/topics/riskassessment>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/index.htm>

http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3220_Warehouse.pdf

Example risk assessment for the warehouse

Location		Date:		Assessor:		
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Completed?
Falls from height	Staff can suffer severe or even fatal injuries if they fell whilst climbing racking	All staff are given instructions never to climb racking – monitored by supervisors	Signage put in place to reiterate the point	Warehouse Manager	01/03/20–	Yes 01/03/–
	Staff or contractor could suffer severe or fatal injuries falling through fragile roof lights when effecting repairs	No controls in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put up 'fragile roof' signs on each side of the building and at access points. Only trained contractors to access the roof. Full risk assessment to be undertaken by contractor 	Facilities Manager Facilities Manager FM/Contractor	01/03/20– 02/04/20– As required	Yes 8/02/20– No
Slips, trips and falls	All staff may suffer sprains or fractures if they trip over debris or slip on spillages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooring kept dry and quality maintained All staff trained to maintain good housekeeping standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable absorber to be made available for liquid spills Extra bins provided for waste 	FM	25/02/20–	24/02/20–
				FM	25/02/20–	24/02/20–

Location		Date:		Assessor:		
What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Completed?
Manual handling						
Falling objects						
Operation of MHE						
Machinery						
Traffic movements						
Portable electrical equipment						
Lighting						
Hazardous substances						
Fire						
Hygiene and Comfort						