

**Business
Case
2005**

**For the URGENT ATTENTION
of Chief Executives and
Health and Safety Committees**

SLIPS AND TRIPS

A TOOL KIT FOR BUSINESS

SLIPS AND TRIPS

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INTRODUCTION

For Directors and Safety Committees

The Business has identified a number of priorities which if successfully tackled should help achieve the targets against which performance is measured. Slips and trips account for almost a quarter of all accidents. Business must play its part. Current thinking is that the way ahead is definitely not rolling out yet more guidance. What companies say they need is an assistant, which is the purpose of this pack.

The kit reduces the problem to the main elements, i.e. the cause of most of the accidents. The intention has been to produce a clear route to the necessary decisions to remove hazardous conditions. Let's just prove the case for action by looking at the Business Case.



THE BUSINESS CASE

There's many a slip.....

We've all heard the old saying '.... if you think health and safety is expensive.....try accidents'. This may sound a bit "old hat" these days, at least to some. If it does there is still no reason to reject the underlying common sense thinking behind it. Slips and trips accidents seldom make headline news unlike transport or falls from height.

The reason why they are not in our face all the time is because mostly they are seldom serious but they are frequent which means that the effect is cumulative and cost to the Industry is massive. Don't forget, slips and trips account for almost a quarter of all accidents and for the victim, no joke!

The truth is that if people are absent from work they cost you money which can be avoided. Just take a look at these numbers and quotes if you need any more convincing.

"Slips and trips accounts for 21% of all liability claims".
From the Insurance Industry

"Quite frankly I used to think that expense on health and safety was not money well spent. Now I get really wound up if I hear comments like that because its just rubbish."
Financial Director

"For my production results there is nothing worse than people being away from work. Every penny spent on health and safety, for me, is good news".
Production Director

"95% of major slips and trips result in broken bones".

ACCIDENT ICEBERG: The Hidden Cost of Accidents

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The visible tip above the water is labeled 'Insurance costs'. The much larger, submerged part below the water is labeled 'Uninsured costs'.

Insurance costs

- covering injury, ill health, damage

Uninsured costs

- Lost time
- Extra wages, overtime payments
- Sick pay
- Production delays
- Fines
- Loss of contracts
- Legal costs
- Damage to products, plant, buildings, tools, equipment
- Clearing the site
- Investigation time
- Excess on any claim
- Loss of business reputation

Source: INDG355 Reduce Risks – Cut Costs – The Real Costs of Accidents and Ill Health At Work

Consider this:

A skilled worker slipped outside his workplace and broke his leg

And this:

THE UNINSURABLE COST to the company through loss of production, training a temp, employee downtime, sick pay was £17,000. Average compensation payment for each accident is £9,326!

CAN YOU AFFORD IT?

Source: Zurich Insurance

Now lets find out what needs to be done to put it right



FIRST PRINCIPLES

SLIPS AND TRIPS

We all know that even if we think we've sorted out a slips and trips problem someone will come along a minute later and drop some oil or something so what's the point?

This kit is put together on the basis that what you're trying to do is to try to remove the potential for any situation to arise which might result in a slip or trip.

The process described overleaf will ultimately lead to a decision which may well cost money. The process therefore needs to lead to a decision maker. We suggest that you sort this out first!

You have made your decision we can

NOW GET TO WORK

Firstly

Appoint a leader and one or two shop floor employees to carry out the process in each area or department (two heads are better than one). These should be people who have enough knowledge and experience of the location and processes. Make sure the team know how to use the Assistant.

Secondly

Divide the workplace into manageable areas. This could be on a departmental basis. The point is that people should know which area they are responsible for.

Thirdly

As a first step the team should consider what should be there/not there and concentrate on these issues as they check the premises.

Fourthly

Use the “Priority” Assistant first. Start with the items in the first column on the left and record your findings, then move along the page until you find an action you can do to achieve a safe workplace condition. Record the action required, date of completion and who is responsible to ensure it happens.

Finally

Use the “Advanced” Assistant if the “Priority” Assistant has not covered everything in your workshop. Record the results of the workplace check and act on them, making a decision that is as high up the decision making list as possible. Keep the Assistant as a record of the actions taken in each area.

WHAT'S TO BE DONE?

SLIPS AND TRIPS

