

Safety Post



The Eye's Have it.

We often take for granted our ability to see. We assume that we'll never have any health problems that might affect our vision other than the need to wear prescription spectacles, but we all need to take care of our eyesight.

With this in mind the organisation is introducing a new policy later this year.

From 1st September 2005 all personnel, contractors and visitors at our Blaikies Quay premises will be required to wear Safety Eyewear.



This decision was taken after consultation with relevant line supervisors and deliberation by Aberdeen Harbour's Health and Safety Unit.

It has been standard practice in many

workshop environments for some time and the benefits of such a policy are well documented.

All pertinent personnel will be provided with their personal safety eyewear before the introduction date and all visitors will be required to report to the Stores to sign out safety eyewear prior to entering the Workshop area.

Compliance with this policy will be mandatory.

Remember your eyes cannot be replaced!



WORKING WITH CHEMICALS

Although we probably don't think about it or perhaps even realise it, we all work with chemicals at some point in our employment.

It might be changing the Toner cartridge on the Photocopier or it could be using disinfectants, like those used by our fishmarket workers to clean the market floors, but they must all be treated with respect.

Before using a chemical in a task ask yourself the following:

Do I need to use this chemical or is there a safer alternative?

Can I reduce the number of times or the amount to which I am exposed?

Am I wearing the correct PPE?

Am I following AHB procedures and Risk Assessments?

If you have any doubts at all contact your supervisor or to raise your concerns.

Your health and safety is of paramount importance.

Working at Height

Most of us will have a requirement to perform a task at height at some time or another.

Normally we wouldn't think twice about setting up a ladder or stepladder to access cables or retrieve a file.

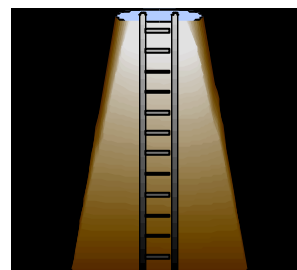
However, in April this year the Government introduced the Work at Height Regulations to ensure that employers and employees do more to protect against

injuries caused by height work.

As a result the organisation will shortly be purchasing some new equipment in line with legislation to ensure greater protection to staff.

Our procedures and risk assessments will also be reviewed.

It's important to understand that the legislation doesn't ban the use of ladders in the workplace. It rightly calls for height work to be



avoided where possible or properly planned and organised where it cannot.

It also calls for work equipment to be inspected and maintained.

Anyone wishing further information can contact the Health and Safety Advisor on ext: 7059.

Positive Safety Culture

Successful health and safety is no accident. It takes lots of effort from everyone in the organisation.

It involves:

- ◆ Policy Setting
- ◆ Organising
- ◆ Planning and Implementing
- ◆ Monitoring performance
- ◆ Review and Auditing



'Safety should be second nature and that must be our goal'

This process must be continuous if an organisation truly longs for a positive health and safety culture to develop.

In order for Aberdeen Harbour Board to monitor and review our

Just Culture Update

In the six months since the introduction of Accountability for Safety / Just Culture at Aberdeen Harbour Board we have recorded no 'Over 3 Day Injurious' incidents.

It is however, vital that we do not let the good work slip as the result will be a colleague injured and in pain, which no one wants to see.

So let's all double our efforts over the next six months and beyond to ensure that our workplace remains safe.

performance we must seek the opinions of you, our employees.

It helps to find out what staff in our organisation think about some health and safety issues to give us a basis on which to continue to improve our health and safety performance.

To assist this process the organisation plans to carry out a health and safety climate survey during the second half of 2005.

Good health and safety should be second nature and that must be our goal in everything we do as an organisation.

It is hoped that the climate survey will help achieve this by raising the profile of health and safety and getting people talking about it, giving you a focus for discussion.

It will also allow Aberdeen Harbour Board to carry out 'active monitoring'. Many organisations discover there are deficiencies in their arrangements only after an accident or case of ill health has been reported. This survey will enable us to receive feedback on performance before such events occur. Allowing us to put preventative measures in place before anyone is hurt.

New First Aid Persons

In line with the (Health and Safety) First Aid Regulations 1981 we have appointed 3 new First Aid Persons to replace retired colleagues.

They are as follows:

- ◆ James Munro (Labourers)
- ◆ Stephen Duncan (Labourers)
- ◆ George Morrison (Meters)

Thanks to each of them for volunteering to fill this vital role.

All employees will be required to complete the survey, which will provide you with an opportunity to express your opinions on the extent of 'violations' or 'non-conformances' with respect to rules, procedures or instructions as well as exploring possible reasons for their occurrence.

The prime purpose of this climate survey is to involve personnel at all levels in identifying health and safety issues that can lead to shared solutions and improve our performance.

Stephen Wilson
Health and Safety Advisor

Occupational Health Assessments

During the remainder of 2005 personnel will be asked to undertake occupational health assessments.

Those employees considered to be at particular risk will be required to attend a physical examination at an occupational health provider of Aberdeen Harbour Boards choice.

All other employees will be required to complete a questionnaire relating to their health for assessment.

More details will follow soon.

