

Gloucester City Council

Environmental Health Factsheet

Safety Pays in the Catering Industry

“If there is a hole in the floor, we cannot reliably expect to avoid an accident by training all of the people to walk around the hole. It would be far easier to cover it”.

The Health and Safety Executive have produced a variety of information which is now freely available from environmental health departments. Catering is a high risk industry, listed below are the main causes of catering accidents and ill-health.

- slips, trips and falls
- contact with hot surfaces or harmful substances
- work related upper limb disorders
- lifting and manual handling
- dermatitis

Accidents at work can lead to financial loss, the cost of accidents are **alarming**

- injuries are frequent (about twice the average rate for the manufacturing industry)
- the potential losses could be significant to the viability of the business
- they are the main cause of both reported serious injury (75%) and all injuries (33%)
- loss of key, trained personnel as well as the loss of wages, and the pain and suffering of the individual
- liability: legal costs in compensation cases, increased insurance costs and enforcement action
- slip and trip injuries cost employers around £300 million annually

Every working day in Great Britain two people are killed and over 6000 are injured at work. Every year three quarters of a million people take time off work because of what they regard as a work related illness. Around 31 million working days are lost as a result; more than 30 times that lost through strikes. **The catering industry is a significant contributor to these statistics.**



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Particular emphasis has been centred on the management of health and safety which includes assessment of risks to health and safety within a business. An assessment of risk is nothing more than a careful examination of what, in your workplace could cause harm to people, so you can weigh up whether you have taken enough precautions or should do more to prevent harm. The aim is to make sure no one gets hurt or becomes ill. Accidents can lead to permanent ill health and can ruin lives. Your business could be affected if output is lost, machinery is damaged, insurance costs increase or you have to go to court. **Further information should be obtained by referring to the seven safety regulations now in force.**

- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995