



4directors

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Directors Take the Lead on Health and Safety Guidance

Directors have taken the initiative in drawing up their own practical, common sense, health and safety guidelines. The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Institute of Directors (IoD) published their new guidance recently "Leading health and safety at work" written by directors, for directors.

The guidance is aimed at reminding directors across all sizes of organisations that it is their responsibility to lead on health and safety and establish policies and practices that make it an integral part of their culture and values.

The guidance offers directors straight forward practical advice on effective leadership on health and safety, detailing a four-point agenda for embedding the essential health and safety principles; a summary on legal liabilities; a checklist of key questions for leaders; a list of resources and references for implementing the guidance in detail.

The guide identifies the three essential principles as:

- Strong and active leadership from the top
- Worker involvement
- Assessment and review

The guidance then breaks the "core" actions down into four manageable areas, using good practice references throughout:

- Plan
- Deliver
- Monitor
- Review

The Health and Safety Minister Lord McKenzie of Luton, who supports the guidance said, "the health and safety of employees is a moral and ethical obligation for each and every employer and this must be driven home from Board level. Only this way will we ensure that health and safety is taken seriously. This guidance clearly sets out the agenda for effective leadership of health and safety."

A copy of the guidance document can be freely downloaded from the HSE's website by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg417.pdf>

For further information on any of the above issues, please contact us on...

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