

Risk Assessment

Principles of Risk Assessment

- *identify the significant risks arising out of work*
- *identify who is at risk*
- *identify those staff particularly at risk*
- *consider existing safeguards, for routine and non-routine situations*
- *these may not reduce the risks to a level that you consider acceptable, in which case:*
- *consider the severity and likelihood of the residual risk*
- *implement further controls, in priority order*
- *record your risk assessment*
- *monitor the results of your actions*
- *review at intervals, and when circumstances change.*

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Regulation four requires preventive and protective measures to be implemented in the following hierarchy:

Principles of Prevention

- *avoid risk*
- *evaluate the risks which cannot be avoided*
- *combat the risks at source*
- *adapt the work to the individual e.g. design of work places, choice of work equipment and production methods, with a view to alleviating monotonous work in particular*
- *adapt to technological progress*
- *replace the dangerous with the non or less dangerous*
- *develop a coherent prevention policy which covers technology, work organisation, working conditions and social relationships*
- *give collective protection measures priority over individual ones*
- *give appropriate instructions to employees*

A safe system of work could incorporate many of the above features.