



Sections 2–9 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The key duties of employers and employees are covered by sections 2-9 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Employers

There is a general duty for employers to ensure the safety, health and welfare at work of their employees **[S2(1)]** and to provide a written safety policy **[S2(3)]**.

- Employers are to provide:
 - a safe and properly maintained plant
 - safe systems of work
 - safe use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances
 - health and safety information, instruction, training and supervision
 - maintenance of the place of work and the means of entry and exit
 - safe working environment and adequate welfare facilities **[all S2(2)]**.

- Employers are to consult:
 - safety reps on joint action on health and safety **[S2(6)]**
 - by establishing safety committees when asked by two or more safety reps **[S2(7)]**.

- Personal protective equipment – no employer may charge for anything done or equipment provided under a statutory requirement **(S9)**.



Sections 2–9 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Contractors and the self-employed

Have a duty to:

- ensure that their activities do not endanger anybody
- provide information to those not in their employment, including members of the public, about any potential hazards to health and safety **(S3)**.

Controllers of premises

Landlords and others who are responsible for places of work, as well as plant and machinery in them, must not endanger people who work there (S4) and must prevent emissions of noxious or offensive substances into the atmosphere **(S5)**.

Designers, manufacturers, importers or suppliers

Must ensure that:

- the article or substance is safe when used in accordance with instructions
- the necessary information, testing, inspection and research is carried out
- the plant is safely installed **(S6)**.

Employees

Must take care not to endanger themselves or anyone else and cooperate with the employer and others in meeting statutory requirements **(S7)**.

Misuse

There is a duty for everyone not to misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety under a statutory requirement **(S8)**.