WORKSAFE

November 2018

Health and safety duties for businesses that manufacture products for workplaces

This fact sheet is for businesses or undertakings that manufacture products that may be used at a workplace.

As a manufacturer, you can eliminate or minimise health and safety risks by making products (this could be plant, substances or structures) that are safe for people who come into contact with them.

Often it is more efficient and cost-effective to make products that are safe for use, than for end-users to retrofit health and safety solutions to poorly designed or made products.

Who is a manufacturer?

A manufacturer is any business or undertaking that makes plant, substances or structures that are to be used, or could reasonably be expected to be used or operated in a workplace.

What are your duties?

In addition to your primary duty of care, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 you must also (so far as is reasonably practicable):

– make sure the products you manufacture do not create health and safety risks to the people that use them and those nearby

– make sure the products you manufacture have been tested so they are safe for use in a workplace

– give the following information to those you provide your products to:
  - your product's purpose or intended use
  - the results of calculations and tests
  - any general and current relevant information about how to safely use, handle, store, construct, inspect, clean, maintain, repair, or otherwise work near the products you have manufactured.

These requirements apply across your product's entire lifecycle - from manufacture and construction, through to everyday use, decommissioning and disposal.

Further information

WorkSafe special guide:
Introduction to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

WorkSafe fact sheet: Reasonably Practicable

WorkSafe good practice guidelines:
Health and Safety by Design – An Introduction

Relevant legislation

Section 40 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

PUBLISHED: NOVEMBER 2018