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Health and safety duties for businesses that supply products for workplaces

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

As a supplier, you can eliminate or minimise health and safety risks by supplying 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 supply 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 supplier?

A supplier is any person that supplies plant, structures or substances that may be used in a workplace. The supplier is often the manufacturer as well. For a full legal definition of supply see: [section 21 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

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 supply do not create health and safety risks to the people that use them and those nearby
- make sure the products you supply have been tested so they are safe for use in a workplace

- give the following information to those you supply your product 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 are supplying.

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

Note: These duties do not apply to the sale (by suppliers) of second-hand plant that is sold 'as is'. 'As is' means the plant is sold without any representation or warranties about its quality, durability, or fitness, and the entire risk rests with the buyer.

Further information

WorkSafe special guide: [Introduction to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

WorkSafe fact sheet: [Reasonably Practicable](#)

Relevant legislation

[Section 42 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

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