

The cure for occupational disease lies in the transformation of the workplace

Is someone getting hurt by your business?

There are many reasons why you may want to examine the causes of occupational ill health in your workplace, but often someone is hurt before the need triggers management attention. Employer's liability claims are one simple measure of the harm that is being done your workplace.

Occupational diseases have now overtaken workplace injuries as the majority cost to insurers. This follows the change in industry away from primary manufacturing industries towards service and office type environments. Another factor is the growing cost of each individual disease claim, growing at 30% compound each year.

Although most traditional occupational diseases are declining in numbers - for example, miners lung diseases, others continue to grow - Asbestos related cancers are expected to rise until 2040, when they will be as common as cancer of the cervix. The single most common cause of occupational disease is still noise, with many workers now making "second wave" claims, as they are still exposed to excessive noise without adequate protection.

Is your business attracting the wrong sort of attention?

The changing nature and tools of modern work attract regular publicity about real and possible health risks. There can be few businesses that cannot function without hazards such as [display screen equipment](#), [mobile phones](#) and [electrical power](#). All of these have been the subject of new scientific information and campaign's by the media, trade unions and government agencies, such as, the health and safety executive.

How do you respond to approaches from your employees, their representatives, or customers?

Besides these general changing concerns, your business will undoubtedly have its own unique hazards. Nevertheless your workforce and customers may become alarmed if your handling of these issues is perceived as lacklustre. You may find yourself the centre of attention with your workers, their families, the media, HSE, trade unions, local authority environmental health or your employer's liability insurer.



Why live on the edge?

Rather than simply experience accidents and mistakes, manage your health risks. To do this, you will first need to find out if you have a problem, then decide what action to take - take it and finally review what you have done.

The WellWork company health check is designed to help with all of these steps.

THE WELLWORK COMPANY HEALTHCHECK

You should be aware of your [legal requirement](#) to undertake risk assessment in the management of health and safety at work regulations 1999. But are you aware that this extends to [health issues](#) as well as safety? [The WellWork Company Health check](#) completes this process and gives you a [management view](#) of the areas that need consideration. As well as dealing with [legal compliance issues](#), it also deals with areas that make sensible risk management initiatives to lower the overall [health risk profile](#) of your business.

These allow you to plan and resource an adequate action plan. You may wish to repeat the Health Check after you have carried out your actions, to show the effect they have had at reducing the health risks.

What are the benefits of a Health Check? You will:

- Understand the health risks of your business.
- Be able to respond to stakeholder concerns about health risks.
- Be able to plan actions based upon the report recommendations.
- Be able to negotiate appropriate premium reductions with your employer's liability insurer.
- Be able to show your employees that you are taking positive actions on their behalf.

How long will the health check take?

The minimum length of time is half a day at your main premises, but with more sites and larger numbers of employees or hazards, this may require periods of up to 2 days on site and the addition of an occupational health physician to view complex health risks.

Reports are delivered within 2 weeks of the visit.