

DSO Review - Unsafe Acts and Conditions Selection Guidance



Unsafe Acts – any act that deviates from a generally recognized safe way or specified method of doing a job and which increases the likelihood of an incident occurring

Adopting	g an	unsafe
position	or p	osture

 A working position or posture that introduces unnecessary loads and stresses on the body causing harm

Distraction

 Loss of concentration either momentarily or prolonged from external factors in the workplace e.g. a sudden loud noise

Failure to wear PPE and other safety equipment

 Not wearing prescribed protective equipment or not using necessary safety equipment

Lack of concentration, fatigue or ill-health

 Not being focused on the task at hand due to illness, tiredness or focusing on multiple tasks at once

Making safety equipment inoperative

 Deliberately disabling safety equipment e.g. removing safety guards or covers

None

No obvious unsafe acts contributed to the incident

Operating or working at an unsafe speed

 Working too quickly or slowly contributed to the incident taking place e.g. rushing to meet a deadline

Operating without authority or adequate training

 Those involved in the incident were not trained or did not have permission to carry out the activity

Unsafe methods or not following risk assessments

• Not following agreed safe systems of work for carrying out tasks e.g. cutting corners

Using unsafe equipment, or using equipment unsafely

 Not using machinery or equipment in the agreed standard operating procedure or using faulty equipment

Working on moving or dangerous equipment

 Work that involves equipment with moving or dangerous parts e.g. work with cutting tools **Unsafe Conditions** – an unsatisfactory physical condition existing in a workplace environment immediately before an incident that was significant in initiating the event

Defective, rough, sharp, slippery, decayed surfaces

• Work or floor surfaces not providing the necessary grip or stability to work safely

Hot, humid, noisy environment

 Environmental conditions making it difficult to work safely e.g. loud environment creating distractions for workers

Inadequate guarding

 Machinery not having guarding or covers that fully protect workers from hazards

Inadequate lighting, glare, reflection

 e.g. poor lighting or glare off surfaces making working safely difficult

Inadequate ventilation, contaminated air

 Poor air quality making working comfortably and safely difficult

None

 No obvious unsafe conditions contributed to the incident

Unguarded or inadequate machinery

• e.g. cutting machinery with no guards or uncovered lasers

Unsafe arrangements, poor housekeeping, congestion, blocked exits

 Poor layout or upkeep making movement in the workplace dangerous or difficult e.g. spills on the floor or blocked walkways

Unsafe or inappropriate clothing – no suitable PPE available where required

 No suitable PPE available where required to reduce the risks associated with the activity

Unsafe processes – mechanical, chemical, electrical

 The standard operating procedure used in the process is inadequate at mitigating risks

Unsafely designed machines or tools

• The design of machinery and tools is inadequate at mitigating risks