

TOOLBOX TALK #17

Safety Inspections

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Everyone at work has a moral and legal duty to prevent accidents

Why: Employees who are aware of unsafe activities can take the necessary reporting actions to prevent accidents occurring.

Outline: This talk will cover benefits of safety inspections and consultation.



Why have safety inspections?

- To reduce accident rates, suffering and the associated direct and indirect costs.
- High accident rates result in higher insurance premiums, increased disruption and therefore lower profits.

NOTES

Safety Inspections

- Employers have a legal duty to seek competent health and safety advice.
- Someone with responsibility for health and safety will carry out safety inspections to detect shortcomings in health and safety on site.
- Actions will be taken to put right the shortcomings.
- Safety inspections confirm the employers commitment to health and safety.

Q: How do you think you could be involved in a safety audit?

Consultation

- Employers have the legal duty to consult with employees on matters of health and safety.
- Employers may appoint safety representatives through whom employees can raise matters of concern on health and safety.
- If there are matters of health and safety which concern you, you should bring them to the attention of your employer.

Q: Has your employer appointed a safety representative? If so, do you know who it is?

For more information

Call: +44(0) 1206 396446

Email: sales@vitalgrp.co.uk
vitalgrp.co.uk

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NOTES

Union Safety Representatives

- Recognized trade unions have the right to appoint safety representatives.
- Safety representatives, upon giving notice, can carry out safety inspections.
- Where there are members from more than one trade union working in the same area, a safety representative from each union may carry out inspections of that area.
- If you have a union appointed representative you should know his or her identity.
- If you are in a trade union which has appoint a safety representative you should be able to take any concerns about health and safety to him or her.
- Employers must set up a Safety Committee if it is requested by union appointed safety representatives.

Q. Who is your trade union health and safety representatives?

Do you have any questions for me?

NOTE TO YOUR SUPERVISOR

Now inform the workforce of the arrangements for health and safety inspections within your company.

Sources: [Inspections of the workplace](#) [Inspection of work equipment - HSE](#) [Inspection of work equipment - HSE](#) [HSE](#)
[Offshore: Inspections report: process safety leadership of offshore operators](#)

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