

Legal Issues – Health and Safety in the Hotel Industry

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No matter how big or small a business is, health and safety regulations must be followed. But nonetheless, it grows increasingly essential when it comes to health and safety in the hotel industry. To ensure the security of both employees and customers, businesses including restaurants and hotels must implement and conduct routine health and safety inspections.

To maintain and regulate health and safety in the UK, the government has implemented the Health and safety at Work Act 1974 (*HSE, 2023*). This ensures that all industries and the hospitality industry, can create a safe and enjoyable experience, as well as the employees feel protected and carry out work effectively. However, there are still several health and safety concerns that need to be resolved. This includes trips and falls, fire safety, and food safety (*HSE, 2023*) (Tiernan, 2022). This essay will explore few issues regarding health and safety, specifically trips and falls.

The Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 was implemented by the government in the UK to uphold and regulate workplace safety (*HSE, 2023*). As a result, all industries, including the hospitality sector, can create a pleasant and safe environment for the customers, and the staff members feel comfortable and can do their jobs properly (*HSE, 2023*).

Hotels must be cautious of liabilities, just like any other business. The most frequent sort of liability they deal with is that of slips and falls, which may be avoided by placing warning signs in trouble spots (Mest,2015). Liability relating to the security of visitors' personal goods is a close second (Mest,2015). According to studies conducted by Baker, 16.4% of permanently debilitating workplace injuries and \$10.17 billion compensation expenditure are attributed to slips and falls (Baker, 2016). Slips and falls also result in a variety of health problems, some of which are chronic. For instance, it has been shown that 59.3% of people suffer from severe upper back discomfort, while another 62.5% encounter lower back pain (Shapoval et al., 2022).

It is clear from this that slip and falls are a major problem in the hotel sector and a major source of financial loss for the industry. Hotels must discover solutions to stop this problem if they want to avoid having legal action brought against them. This involves utilising the proper cleaning supplies, placing warning signs when there are

spills, quickly drying any damp areas, and wearing appropriate footwear (*HSE*, 2012).

In conclusion is evident that health and safety is a crucial part of any businesses and specially in the hotel industry. It is important for employers and employees to adhere with the work regulations and the laws to maintain a safe working environment.

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