



Tern Associates Ltd

# Ternarius

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## Slips and Trips - No Laughing Matter!

### Wise Words:

What you see depends on what you're looking for.

Anonymous

### World Environment Day — June 5th

'Stand up to Climate Change — Time for a New Routine' is the Environment Agency take on World Environment Day 2008. Focusing on being prepared for the challenges posed by climate change.

The choices we make every day impact on the environment. By making the right choices now we can slow down climate change and, just as importantly, be prepared! So is it time you changed your routine? Here is how you can help

- ▶ Be prepared for floods
- ▶ Save water
- ▶ Help save wildlife
- ▶ Stay safe in extreme weather
- ▶ Become an asset to your community

START A NEW ROUTINE &

**STAND UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Slipping on a banana skin, is part of the staple diet of slapstick comedy. Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy and others have had audiences in uproars of laughter over the comical consequences of well timed slips and trips.



Joking aside, slips and trips are a major occupational safety issue and one of the most common and preventable causes of workplace injuries. They occur across all industry sectors and generally the potential business liability and personal upset fails to be truly appreciated. Business Link indicate that having staff absent from work may damage productivity and injury to a customer or member of staff may also lead to a claim for damages, resulting in extra cost and inconvenience. Slips and Trips account for a third of all major injuries in the workplace and cost businesses and the economy more than £750million each year.

Slips and trips are not only restricted to employees, customers and even

the general public can also be at risk. Fortunately, the basic precautions are simple and cost effective. Clean, dry, unobstructed walkways and the use of appropriate footwear can offer a solution.

### Safe Floors

Obstacles and slippery floors are common factors in most slips and trips. Good housekeeping practices are essential, with prompt cleaning up of spillages and debris. Risk Assessments should be carried out to determine if a non-slip floor treatment is needed when wet or greasy floors are inevitable. Floors in workplaces where people are continually entering from outdoors will often be wet in bad weather and during winter months. In commercial kitchens and some industrial operations, grease or oils may settle on floors, increasing the chance of slips and trips. These areas may benefit from non-slip coating or treatment; and good housekeeping practices.

### The Right Footwear

Unsuitable footwear is often a factor in slips and trips. Employers should determine in their Risk Assessments the most suitable type of footwear for the working conditions. Most businesses, however, cannot control the footwear of their customers.

Why not help to avoid slips and trips, by; wearing the right footwear; adjusting your stride to the walking surface and watching where you are going?

Remember — Slips and Trips are no laughing matter!

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### Vehicle Audits

Companies could face prosecution if they allow employees to drive fleet or even private cars for work on defective tyres that result in road death.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act that came into force in April of this year puts a duty of care on employers to ensure the safety of their employees, which includes regular audited checks on such things as tyres.



Tyresafe, the group that promote tyre safety, reckons nearly a quarter of all vehicles in Britain have at least one defective or illegal tyre.

It's as important to have systems in place to audit vehicle maintenance, as you would with any other piece of work equipment!

Securing a return on investment and improving profitability are key to your success. Organisations requiring enhanced and efficient performance are using Tern Associates to audit and review their equipment, people and systems. Objective advice, guidance and training are provided to secure effective improvements. Rejuvenating client's operating systems to reflect best practical principles is right up Tern's street! Maximising on your investment, we aim to evolve and continuously develop your organisation to enable you to survive and prosper. Tern Associates offer a comprehensive and competitive service, to help, advise and guide today's businesses through the myriad of legislation associated with;

Health & Safety

Environment

Facilities Management

Metallurgy and Heat Treatment

Developing and implementing bespoke initiatives using our extensive knowledge and experience aids your legal compliance and improves your competitiveness, providing you with commercial advantage.

Interested, call Alan on 0871 223 9800 for an informal chat or site review

**REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals)** came into force on 1st June 2007 replacing a number of European Directives and Regulations and will impact most businesses in the UK in some way.

REACH is a single system with several aims which include; to provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals; and make the people who place chemicals on the market (**manufacturers** and **importers**) responsible for understanding and managing the risks associated with their use.

It is important for companies to understand their role and duties under the legislation. A REACH dutyholder falls within three main types;

- ▶ Manufacturers/Importers
- ▶ Downstream users
- ▶ Other actors in the supply chain (i.e. distributors, suppliers)

Consider what you have to do, and act promptly to facilitate compliance.

For any company manufacturing or importing a substance on its own, in a preparation (mixture of substances), or in articles (finished manufactured goods) at or above 1 tonne per year may have to register it.

Don't forget your window of opportunity for pre-registration is 1st June 2008 to 30th November 2008.

### Healthy workplaces

Good for you. Good for business



### European Campaign on Risk Assessment 2008-

The European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work, formerly known as Euroweek, will this time be a two year campaign focusing on risk assessment.

The UK's campaign, aimed at employers, workers, safety representatives and other stakeholders, will be officially launched in London on 24th June 2008. Full details of articles, downloadable tools and materials will then be made available by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

A number of nationwide events are planned for European Week, 20th to 24th October 2008.

Plan your own workplace initiative; encourage involvement and raise awareness. Need Help? Call Tern Associates on 0871 223 9800



*Acknowledgements: Information used within this newsletter has been sourced from the Health & Safety Executive, Environment Agency, Business Link and Tyresafe, The information provided in this newsletter is intended as a guide and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice.*

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