



Warehouse Safety

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires employers to look after the risks that arise in the work place and put sensible health and safety measurements in place to control them. This allows you to keep employees and members of the public from harm, as well as protect your premises, goods, equipment and reputation.

The main causes of injuries in warehouses are:

- ◆ Slips and trips
- ◆ Manual handling
- ◆ Work at height
- ◆ Vehicles in and around the warehouse
- ◆ Moving or falling objects.

Most **slips and trips** in warehouses can be avoided by keeping floors free from spills and obstructions; providing staircases with handrails; ensuring suitable lighting; and checking appropriate footwear is worn.

Where there is a risk from a **manual handling** task, the task should be avoided, e.g. by using a fork lift truck. If this is not practical, a risk assessment is carried out which considers the task, the load, the working environment, individual capability and any other factors. Employees should be trained in safe manual handling.

If **work at height** cannot be avoided, suitable equipment should be selected. Where ladders are used, it must be shown that alternative safer equipment is not practical as the task is of low risk and short duration. Employees should be competent to work at height and equipment examined regularly.



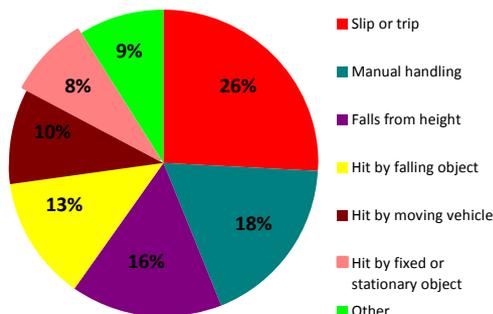
The risk of accidents due to **vehicles in and around the warehouse** can be minimised with properly designed traffic routes; safe procedures for reversing; safe systems of work for loading/unloading; and safeguards against vehicles moving until safe with secure loads.

Access to areas of a warehouse at risk from **moving or falling objects** should be restricted to authorised personnel. Appropriate mechanical handling equipment should be selected, regularly maintained and inspected, and operators fully trained. Finally, storage systems need to be properly designated and marked, with racking systems installed correctly and regularly inspected.

PAVY Ltd offer a comprehensive safety package for warehouses:

- ◆ Health & Safety site audits
- ◆ Health & Safety policy documents
- ◆ Risk Assessment (including fire)
- ◆ Racking Inspections (SEMA guidelines)
- ◆ Training: fire marshal, manual handling
- ◆ BS OHSAS 18001.

*For advice on Energy Efficiency, please consult our environmental bulletin on **Warehousing & Distribution**.*



Causes of major injuries in storage and warehousing 2005/6. (Warehousing and storage: a guide to health and safety HSG76, HSE Books 2007).

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