

Relevant sections contained in the Health and Safety at Work Act on personal responsibility basically state that individuals:

- must work in a manner which does not put themselves or anyone else in danger.
- must comply with all safety requirements advised by their employer.
- must not misuse or abuse any article supplied for safety purposes.

Therefore individual employees (full or part time, temporary or permanent) have personal health and safety responsibilities as well as employers. This reflects the fact that for good safety management it is essential that the employer and their employees work together.

An employee's responsibilities are to:

- take reasonable care of the health and safety of themselves and of others who may be affected by what they do (or do not do)
- cooperate with the employer and/or others on health and safety matters
- not misuse any equipment that is provided for safety or welfare purposes (e.g. fire extinguishers or safety goggles)
- use any PPE provided by your employer, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and any training provided
- follow instructions from your employer on health and safety matters and attend relevant health and safety training
- report hazards and defects observed in the workplace.

For more information download the HSE brochure '[Your health, your safety](#)
[A brief guide for workers](#)'.