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# Compliance Doesn't Stop at COVID-19

During recent times when our health and safety focus may have been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that all of our key stakeholders remain protected from infection, it could be very easy to let our usual compliance with general health and safety slide.

As we all try to return to the 'new normal', it is appropriate that our attention turns to those simple, sometimes periodic checks that may have taken a backseat.

### Management

Check that your health and safety policy is in date, relevant and signed. Have key personnel, processes and arrangements changed?

### Training

Although some training expiration dates may have been extended by the relevant governing bodies, it is highly recommended that a review of staff training records be carried out to ensure that key personnel such as competent persons, first aiders, fire wardens, height workers, etc. are still compliant. You should also consider that some of your first aiders and fire marshals may be home-based or furloughed for a period of time and not be in the workplace.

### Risk Assessments

Government guidance has been to approach the control of COVID-19 via risk management, so it is now also essential to review existing, related or even general risk and COSHH

assessments to confirm that they are still relevant and up-to-date.

### Workplace

Considering a number of staff may have been furloughed during this period, a return to work should now initiate general inspections that could have been waived or missed during this period. Check that first aid kits, fire extinguishers, LOLER-related items etc. are still in date, and ensure that fire alarm and emergency evacuation processes are checked and practiced. You should also check that fire doors are inspected and working correctly, that PAT testing is in date and that fall protection equipment, breathing apparatus, hand and power tools have all been inspected as required. Additionally, ensure that water hygiene checks and asbestos inspections that may have been missed are booked and carried out as soon as conditions allow.

Although these items are nothing more than standard operating procedures, please be assured that SOCOTEC's Health and Safety Consultancy is always here to help with the finer detail should you require our assistance.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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