

Did you know?

Safety Critical Work

In some activities within the construction industry the consequences of a worker suddenly becoming ill could not only affect their own health and safety but also that of others. The term 'Safety Critical Work' (SCW) has been used for such activities.

Within the CBH Standards SCW is defined as:

"Where the ill health of an individual may compromise their ability to undertake a task defined as safety critical, thereby posing a significant risk to the health and safety of others."

Jobs such as mobile plant operators, asbestos licensed workers, tunnelers or working in specific situations, for example rail trackside, high speed road, working in a confined space or working at height where collective preventative measures to control risk are not practicable have all been described as SCW.

It is important that those doing SCW should not be suffering from medical conditions, or having medical treatment that is likely to cause sudden loss of consciousness or incapacity; impairment of awareness, concentration, balance or coordination; or significant limitation of mobility.

Questions that can be used to identify whether you should undertake SCW include:

- *Is your eyesight good enough to do your job safely?*
- *Can you hear the warning sounds?*
- *Diabetes can lead to collapse – have you been tested?*
- *There are no symptoms of high blood pressure – how do you know if yours is within safe limits?*
- *Are you sure your colleagues' health won't affect your own health and safety?*
- *Be safe – have a health check!*

In other words

Certain conditions, which a worker may be unaware they have, can cause sudden ill health. CBH recommends that workers undertaking SCW should have regular health checks to protect their own health and safety and that of others. By doing so the individual can receive the appropriate treatment and accidents can be prevented.

What should I do if I am worried about my health?

Speak to your manager or the occupational health nurse or doctor as soon as possible.

For general advice you can contact CBH on 0845 873 7726

Useful links

Health and safety in the construction industry at:

www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm

Constructing Better Health website at: www.cbhscheme.com

Fit for Work website at: fitforwork.org