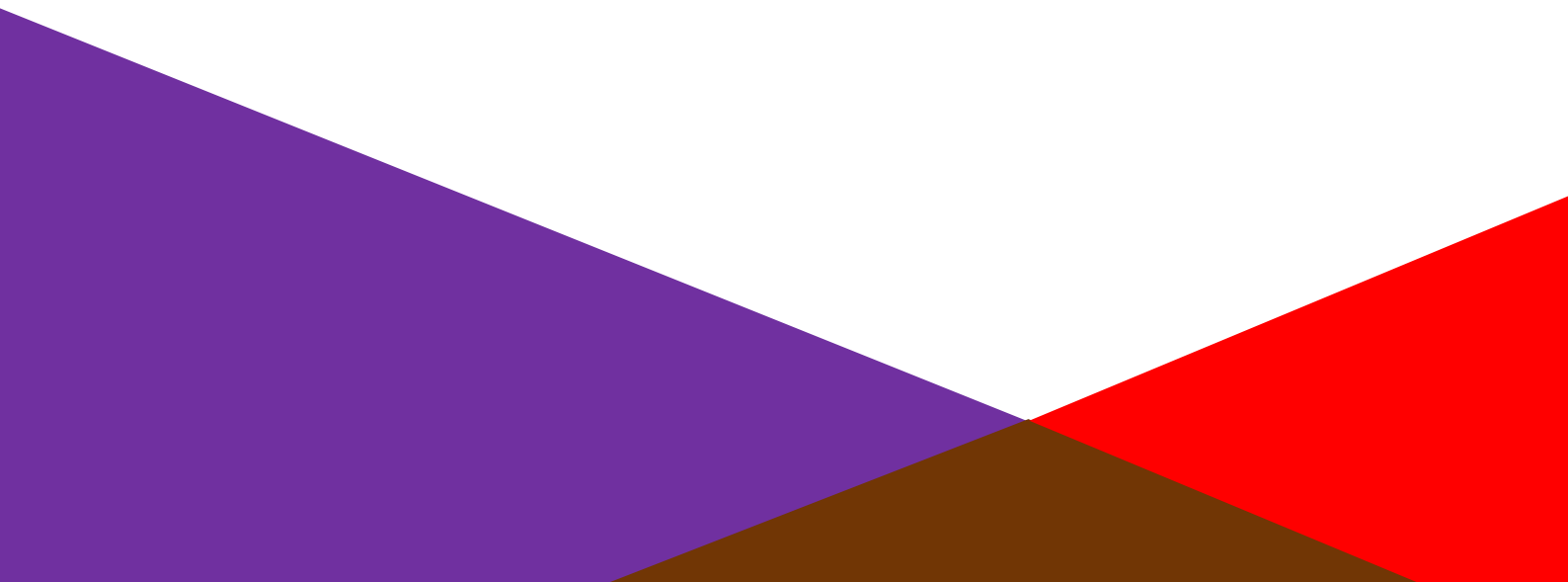


# PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS



# Risk Control Guide

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## Introduction

This Risk Control Guide provides information and guidance on some of the common risk exposures in which businesses who are responsible for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults are affected. There are vast quantities of exposures within various sectors, this document is not intended to be exclusive more of an awareness in order to guide users in the right direction of authoritative advice and information.

This Guide is based on United Kingdom regulation and practice. References are from UK sources.

## Care Homes Injury Prevention

Every year a large number of staff members are injured whilst working in residential care homes. This causes considerable pain and suffering and can also involve employers in additional work and expense i.e. replacing key personnel, maintaining adequate staffing levels, administrative work filling in accident report forms and, of course, providing sick pay.

Many of the injuries and accidents are avoidable. The purpose of this risk management guide is to highlight the main areas of risk and give general guidance on how to avoid them.

Keys risks associated include:

- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Manual Handling
- Machinery and Equipment
- Violence, Stress and Aggression
- Work Related Stress

Further information and guidance is available from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg220.pdf> - Health & Safety in Care Homes

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/index.htm> - Health & Social Care Services

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/slips/index.htm> - Slips & Trips in Health & Social Care

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/library> - Code of Practice for Patient Handling

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/> - Work Related Stress

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/violence-health-services.htm> - Violence and Aggression to Staff in Health Services

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/moving-handling.htm> - Moving and Handling in Health & Social Care

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/moving-handling-do.htm> - Moving and Handling –

What you Need to do

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/healthservices/health.pdf> - Health and Social Care Sector

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## Child Care Facilities

The Children Act 1989 legislates for children in England and Wales. It covers playgroups, crèches, nurseries and private companies. As well as requirements for schools, adoption and foster agencies. A child or young person as they are more commonly known is any person under the age of 18.

Where day care is provided then you are required to register with Ofsted. However, the person in charge is required to notify the Local Authority of their intention to provide this service.

The following standards take into account general Social Services' standards for full day care. These may differ depending upon the Local Authority in which the facility is to operate.

Considerations must be made in relation to Child Protection and Health & Safety Policies; Staff Qualifications; Premises and Space Standards; Staff and Child Ratio/ Maximum Number of Places/ Size of groups; Babies and Toddlers; Furniture and Equipment/ Toys and Games; Snacks and Meals; Observation and Records; Sanctions; Security; Illness and Fire Precautions.

Further information and guidance is available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/> - Education and School Trips

<https://www.gov.uk/find-sure-start-childrens-centre> - Surestart

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/voluntary/index.htm> - Voluntary Organisations

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/kidsdvd.htm> - Kidsafe a compilation of child safety training films

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/children.htm> - Children and Public Safety in the Agricultural Industry

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/sensible-leadership/> - Sensible Health & Safety Management in Schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/safeguarding-children-and-young-people> - Safeguarding Children and Young People

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## Inflatable Safety

Many children enjoy using inflatable play equipment e.g. bouncy castles and do so safely. However, like all active play equipment they can cause injury. Whilst most of these are minor some are serious, and can include broken bones, severe lacerations and in rare instances even permanent disability.

The majority of injuries are caused by children bouncing off the inflatable onto the ground, being hit by other children or just falling awkwardly. Many of these accidents could be avoided by effective adult supervision.

The main hazards associated with inflatable play equipment are:

- instability and blowing away in windy conditions
- sudden loss of pressure due to failure of the fabric, zips and seams, loss of power to the blower or litter blocking the air intake
- falls from the structure
- tripping e.g. over anchorages
- injury due to boisterous behaviour
- access to dangerous, inadequately protected machinery
- electrical hazards
- injury from the wearing of inappropriate clothes and shoes

It is important the equipment is suitably maintained and inspected annually by registered inspectors.

The equipment should be hired from reputable hire companies preferably a member of a trade association one such is the British Inflatable Hire Association (BIHA).

Further information and guidance on what needs to do to ensure play equipment is safely obtained, installed and the risks managed effectively are available from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg179.htm> - Managing Health & Safety in Swimming Pools (Inflatable Play Structures)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/faqs.htm#inflatables> – Ride Inspection

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg175.htm> - Fairground and Amusement Parks  
Guidance on Safe Practice

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childs-play-statement.htm> - Children's Play & Leisure

<http://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/advice/bouncy-castles/> - ROSPA Bouncy Castles

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/faqs.htm#inflatables> – safe use of inflatables

<http://www.pipa.org.uk/> or <http://www.adips.co.uk/> or <http://www.naih.org.uk/> - Inflatable Play Inspections

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## Playgrounds

Playgrounds should provide children with the freedom to explore, experiment, be creative and to interact with their friends and peers. In order to fulfil these functions a play area needs to be challenging and fun, yet this has to be balanced against the potential for harm which might be caused to users. Ideally a playground should encourage children to explore new activities, allow them to assess the risks of their actions and to experience accidents when their assessment is incorrect. However, those accidents should not result in injury to the child leading to short or long term disability and even death.

There are various legal duties which have to be adhered to in order to protect customers and general members of the public. It is not acceptable to purely post notices excluding liability.

Play equipment should conform to the relevant standard this includes **BS EN 1176, BS EN 1177 and BS 7188**. Best practice guidance on aspects such as siting and access, layout, selecting and installing equipment, surfaces, inspection, maintenance, records and accidents are available within these standards.

In addition further information and guidance is available from:

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/> - British Standards Institution (BSI)

<http://www.playinspectors.com/> - Register of Play Inspectors

<http://www.rospa.com/play-safety/> - RoSPA

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## Supervision of Social Activities in the Sports Industry

Leisure activities should be an enjoyable experience. There is a clear need to provide personal challenging through sporting activities whilst at the same time balancing this against the need for effective safety management. The leisure industry includes, but is not exclusive to activities within leisure centres, organised sporting activities, swimming, countryside activities, motorised and adventurous pursuits such as hill walking.

The nature of these activities can lead to disability injuries and potential fatality, if they are not suitably managed. Organisers and duty holders have a responsibility under health & safety legislation.

Further information and guidance is available from:

<http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/> - Sports and Recreational Alliance

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aala/index.htm> - Adventure Activity Licensing

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/> - Risk Assessment

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg179.htm> - Managing Health & Safety in Swimming

Pools

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l24.htm> - Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare

Approved Code of Practice

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg163.pdf> - A Brief Guide to Controlling Risks in the

Workplace

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## Young People at Work

A “young person” is defined as a person who has not reached the age of 18 or has not yet reached the minimum school leaving age (MSLA), pupils must reach the MSLA in the school year in which they turn 18.

Young persons are seen as particularly at risk whilst at work due to their lack of awareness of risks, their immaturity and inexperience. Due to the physical and biological development of their bodies and organs, certain hazards are seen as presenting greater risks to them.

If these risks and the individual are not suitably managed they can lead to both short and long term injuries or illness such as cancer caused by exposure to radiation, or asthma caused by the inhalation of dangerous substances.

There are various duties required to be adhered to in order to protect young persons at work or on work experience. This includes informing parents or guardians of children of the possible risks and control measures.

Further information and guidance is available from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/law/> - What the Law Says about Young Persons

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/workexperience/index.htm> - Work Experience

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/apprentices.htm> - Apprentices

### Disclaimer

**The information set out in this document constitutes a guide and should not be construed or relied upon as specialist advice. RSA does not guarantee that all hazards and exposures relating to the subject matter of this document are covered. Therefore RSA accepts no responsibility towards any person relying upon these Risk Control Guides nor accepts any liability whatsoever for the accuracy of data supplied by another party or the consequences of reliance upon it.**