



Health & Safety Policy – 2024

The responsibility of all!

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Signature:	

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Statement of General Policy

Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd fully accepts the obligations placed upon it by the various Acts of Parliament covering health and safety. The Company requires its Managing Director to ensure that the following policy is implemented and to report annually on its effectiveness.

Management Organisation and Arrangements

This policy has been prepared and published under the requirements of Health & Safety at Work legislation. The purpose of the policy is to establish general standards for health and safety at work and to distribute responsibility for their achievement to all managers, supervisors, and other employees through the normal line management processes.

Apprenticeship Training Health and Safety

Apprentices must abide by their employers Health and Safety policy. The Off the Job training undertaken by apprentices will be in the employer workplace or designated environment. Therefore, in the first instance all Health and Safety incidents must be reported in line with the employer Health and Safety Policy. It is a requirement to complete and submit a Health and Safety incident Report (as below) to Vision Rehabilitation Training in addition to the employer report.

Employers are required to confirm they have an implemented Health and Safety policy and that the apprentice has been made aware of the policy and the process of incident reporting. See 'Contract for Services with Employers'.

Management Responsibilities

MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Managing Director has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Company's policy. He is responsible for ensuring that the policy is widely communicated and that its effectiveness is monitored.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGERS

These managers are wholly accountable to the Managing Director for the implementation and monitoring of the policy within the area of their specified responsibility.

NOMINATED DIRECTOR/SAFETY OFFICER

The Nominated Director/Safety Officer is responsible for co-ordinating effective health and safety policies and controls across the organisation.

The Nominated Director/Safety Officer is responsible for:

- the production and maintenance of the Company's policy and ensuring that Department Guidelines are consistent with policy.
- the application of the health and safety policy.
- monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the policy.

- the provision of general advice about the implication of the law.
- the identification of health and safety training needs. The Nominated Director/Safety Officer also acts on behalf of the Managing Director, as the Company's formal link with the Health and Safety Managing, Environment Health Departments, and other external agencies.
- the production and maintenance of any health and safety documents or codes of practice as necessary for any relevant area of the Company services where this is required.

Health and Safety Management Process

Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd believes that consideration of the health, safety and welfare of staff is an integral part of the management process. The provision of the Health and Safety at Work Act, associated Codes of Practice and other relevant Directives will be adopted as required standards within the Company. Responsibility for health and safety matters shall be explicitly stated in management job descriptions.

The Company requires managers to approach health and safety in a systematic way, by identifying hazards and problems, planning improvements, taking Managing action and monitoring results so that most of the health and safety needs will be met from locally held budgets as part of day-to-day management, although many health and safety problems can be rectified at little additional cost.

For major additional expenditure, cases of need will be submitted to the Managing Director. If unpredictable health and safety issues arise during the year, the Managing Director must assess the degree of risk, in deciding the necessary resources and actions to commit to addressing these issues.

Identification of Health and Safety Hazards

ANNUAL AUDIT AND REGULAR RISK ASSESSMENTS

It is the policy of Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd to require a thorough examination of health and safety performance against established standards across all activities, at least annually. The technique to be adopted for such examinations will be the 'Safety Audit'. The Audit requires review of:

- standards laid down in the policy.
- departmental guidelines.
- relevant regulations.
- environmental factors.
- staff attitudes.
- staff instructions.
- methods of work.
- contingency plans.
- recording and provision of information about accidents and hazards and the assessment of risk.

The information obtained by the Audit will be used to form the basis of the plan for the department for the following year.

The responsibility for ensuring that audit activity is carried out as part of this policy rests with the Managing Director and will be carried out by the Nominated Director/Safety Officer. Although the Audit remains a management responsibility, managers are required as part of this policy to seek the involvement of the appropriate Health and Safety Representative in the conduct of the Audit.

It is the management's responsibility to ensure that any deficiencies highlighted in the Audit are dealt with as speedily as possible.

In addition to carrying out Safety Audits, it is the responsibility of the department manager to have checked, at least quarterly, all portable equipment, including electrical appliances, in their area, and to ensure that all problems are immediately dealt with.

Managers have a continual responsibility for the elimination of hazards to maintain a safe working environment and will also be expected to carry out regular risk assessments in line with the Health and Safety Managing Guidelines; that is follow the 5 steps:

1. Identify the hazards.
2. Decide who might be harmed and how.
3. Evaluate the Risks and decide on precautions.
4. Record the findings and implement the precautions.
5. Review the assessment and update when necessary.

SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd will support Safety Representatives in carrying out their role and give all reasonable assistance. Safety Representatives will be encouraged to discuss specific health and safety issues with all members of staff. They may also formally report hazardous or unsafe circumstances and will be formally notified of the remedial action taken or be given a reason why the action cannot be taken.

TRAINING

Health and Safety training shall be incorporated within annual training programmes, as part of the development of a systematic training plan. Health and Safety training needs will, therefore, be identified and planned for in the same manner as other training needs.

Four areas of need shall be given special priority:

- **Training for Managers.** To equip them with an understanding of the manager's responsibilities under this policy, and the role and purpose of safety representatives.
- **Training for Health and Safety Representatives.** To enable them to discharge their function.

- **Training for all members of Staff.** To acquaint them with the main provisions of the law and its practical implication, the main features of this policy and key safety rules.
- **Induction and In-Service Training.** For staff at all levels to acquaint them fully with new requirements and hazards.

RECORDS, STATISTICS AND MONITORING

The Company will operate systems for recording, analysis, and presentation of information about accidents, hazard situations and untoward occurrences. Advice on systems will be provided by the Nominated Director/ Safety Officer, in conjunction, where appropriate with specialist advisory bodies for example local Environmental Health Departments, and the responsibility for the operation of these systems rests with managers and supervisors at all levels. Information obtained from the analysis of accident statistics must be acted upon and, where necessary, bids for additional expenditure made to the Managing Director.

REPORTS TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 (RIDDOR) to the Health and Safety Executive, shall rest with the Managing Director as delegated to the Safety Officer.

SPECIALIST ADVISORY BODIES

Certain bodies and the individual members of those bodies have always had a Health and Safety role, most notably, the Health & Safety Executive, or local Environmental Health Departments. If further specialist advice is required, this may be obtained by Managers from expert individuals or bodies outside the Company.

THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

It is the policy of the Company to obtain independent Occupational Health advice when required. Such services can include counselling on health and associated matters, investigation of hazards and accidents, environment studies, health interviews and employment medicals.

FIRST AID

It is the policy of the Company to make provision for First Aid and the training of 'First Aiders' in accordance with the First Aid Regulations (1982). The Nominated Director/Safety Officer is responsible for ensuring the Regulations are implemented and for identifying training needs.

FIRE

The Managing Director is responsible for ensuring that the staff receive adequate fire training, and that nominated fire officers are designated in all Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd premises. The Managing Director delegates these responsibilities to the Directors.

In addition, the Company will nominate a Fire Officer for each permanent Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd premises (this may be the Safety Officer or someone external to the Company) who will:

- report and advise on the standard of fire safety in the Company's premises and the standard of fire training of its staff.
- undertake overall responsibility for fire training.
- assist in the investigation of all fires in the Company's premises and to submit reports of such incidents.

CONDEMNATION AND DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

Procedures for the condemnation and disposal of equipment are determined by the Managing Director. Managers introducing new equipment should have such equipment checked initially by the Safety Officer.

LIFTING AND HANDLING

Managers are responsible for informing staff of safe lifting techniques. The Safety Officer will identify specific training needs and ensure training in lifting and handling is provided to staff who require it.

NON-SMOKING ON COMPANY PREMISES

Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd policy is that there will be no smoking in its buildings. The overall aim is to reduce smoking and so save life, reduce risk of fire, prevent unnecessary illness and chronic disability. These rules also extend to e-cigarettes / vaping.

CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) require the Company to identify those substances which are in use, which are hazardous to health (as legally defined) and to assess the risk of those substances. The Company must also provide and use controls to prevent exposure to substances hazardous to health; maintain controls by monitoring exposure, or by health surveillance of employees; and provide information, instruction, and training for employees on all these matters. The Safety Officer is responsible for implementing these Regulations.

COMPUTER INSTALLATIONS AND VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS

All new computer installations must adhere to the British Standard Specifications and comply with the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992. All new employees operating such equipment are expected to read the Health and Safety Managing guidance entitled 'Working with Display Screen Equipment'. New employees who regularly use VDUs will be required to undergo sight screening.

CONTROL OF WORKING TIME

Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd is committed to the principles of the Working Time Regulations. No member of staff is expected to work more than 37 hours per week (including overtime) unless there are exceptional circumstances. Similarly, all other requirements of the regulations e.g., in relation to breaks, night workers etc. will be complied with.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires each employee 'to take reasonable care for the Health and Safety of himself and of other persons who may be affected by their acts and omissions' and co-operate with management to enable management to carry out their responsibilities under the Act. Employees have equal responsibility with the Company for Health and Safety at Work.

The refusal of any employee to meet their obligations will be regarded as a matter to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure. In normal circumstances counselling of the employee should be sufficient. With a continuing problem, or where an employee leaves themselves or other employees open to risk or injury, it may be necessary to implement the formal stages of the Disciplinary Procedure.

LONE WORKING

The nature of the services provided by Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd requires staff to work independently and alone. These situations require the identification of hazards, the formal assessment of risk and the forming of working arrangements that eliminate or at least mitigate against risk.

Many people work alone in offices or outside normal working hours in activities that do not present significant risk. However, alternative requirements may be needed on occasions where risks may occur that are not manageable or anticipated.

Lone Worker – a Lone Worker is a person working alone who does not have either visual or audible communication with someone who can summon assistance in the event of illness or injury.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd has a duty of care to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of all its employees (see Responsibilities etc...above).

It is the responsibility of all staff members to consider the implications of working alone, we expect that all staff:

- understand the implications, expectations and requirements of working alone.
- work to formally identify potential risk of working alone.

- undertake risk assessments, within which, risk to lone workers, control measure to mitigate risk, and any foreseeably uncontrollable risks are identified.
- create a communication protocol with an appropriate other (staff or family members).
- be aware of the hazards and understand all the necessary control measures that need to be put in place.
- ensure that as a lone worker they are medically fit to undertake the work alone.
- engage in supervision, instruction and training to secure professional competence.
- ensure monitoring of their lone working practices is in place to adhere to the control measures identified in the lone working risk assessment.
- take responsibility of their own safety.
- not knowingly place themselves in situations which expose them to additional risk by working alone.
- remove themselves from a 'lone working' situation which may present unexpected risk.
- make themselves familiar with and adhere to the health and safety policy within any third-party premises they are working.
- inform line managers of any concerns over lone working and any arrangements that have been put in place to mitigate risk.

Managers must make final decisions on the levels of support, supervision or assistance required by members of staff to mitigate against the risk of lone working wherever possible.

Accident and Ill Health of Apprentices

Apprentices undertaking Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd apprenticeship training programmes will undertake their Off the Job learning activities within their employer workplace or employer designated environment. They are therefore in the first instance subject to their Employers Health and Safety Policy and Procedure.

However, all accidents and Ill Health experienced by the Apprentice whilst on an Apprenticeship Training programme will be required to contact Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd on:

- Telephone: 020 82200033
- Email apprenticeship@visionrehabilitationtraining.com

Using the form below, disclose details of the incident, the time, date, and environment within which it occurred, and details of the reporting already provided to the employer.

People working on company premises not employed by the company

Persons working in Vision Rehabilitation Training Ltd premises who are employed by other organisations are expected to follow Company Health and Safety Policies regarding the safety of Company employees, their own personal safety (and that of other parties such as the general public if appropriate) and their method of work. This responsibility will be included in contracts or working arrangements.

VISITORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Company wishes to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, the Health, Safety and Welfare of visitors to Company establishments will be of the highest standard.

Any member of staff who notices persons acting in a way which would endanger other staff, should normally inform their Head of Department. If the danger is immediate, common sense must be used to give warning, call for assistance or give aid as necessary. It is equally important not to over-react to a situation.

CONTRACTORS

The Company wishes to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, the Health, Safety and Welfare of Contractors working in the Company's establishments will be of the highest standards. In addition, Contractors and their employees have an obligation so far as is reasonably practicable to ensure all equipment, materials and premises under their control are safe and without risks to health.

Contractors must also observe the Company's Fire Safety Procedures. These obligations will be drawn to the attention of the Contractors in the contract document issued to them. In addition, a Company Manager will be identified in the contract as having authority to stop the work of Contractors who are placing themselves, other staff, or visitors at risk. Any member of staff who judges there is a risk where contractors are working, should inform their manager immediately.

In tendering, Contractors will be asked to confirm they have a written Health, Safety and Welfare Policy. The Company's Manager letting the Contract will be responsible for monitoring the Health and Safety performance of the Contractor and the Contractor's performance will be a factor in deciding whether to invite the Contractor to tender again.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT FORM

About the Person Injured or Involved in the incident

Name	
Age	
Address	
Post Code	
Employee/Apprentice Reference	

About the Accident/Incident

Date & Time	
Place the incident occurred Address	
Summary of Incident	
Details of Injury	
First Aid	Yes/No
First Aid Provided by Name Position Contact Details	
Treatment	
Did the person attend hospital/GP	

Reporting**Date & Time****Organisation incident
was reported to.****Address****Contact details****Date and time this form
was submitted****Name of person who the
form was submitted to**