



SLIC CAMPAIGN 2014



Slips, trips and falls Campaign 2014

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) took part in a Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) working group to plan a 2014 Campaign on slips, trips and falls (STF) on the level. In 2014 HSA Inspectors received specialist training and inspected retail and healthcare workplaces.

Awareness

In both Retail and Healthcare workplaces there was a lack of awareness that STF are the second greatest cause of notified workplace accidents and that one in five workplace STF results in an absence over a month.



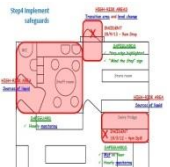
STF risk assessment

In Retail workplaces Inspectors found a failure to consider STF risks from non-employees, inadequate controls to prevent moisture ingress at entrances and a lack of identification of sources of liquid that could pose a slip risk. Inspectors also reported that powder, gel and granule spills were difficult to deal with. On a positive note, Inspectors reported that spill kits were more common and useful.



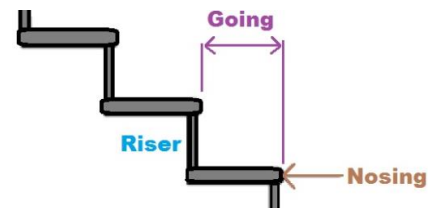
High-risk areas

In Healthcare, Inspectors found an issue with trailing cables on walkways. In Retail, they found that the floors of toilets, bathrooms were slippery. At the entrances to Retail buildings, there were inadequate controls to prevent moisture ingress. Inspectors felt generally that entrances were poor. On a positive note, Inspectors reported that checking wet footprints beyond entrance mats was useful.



Stairs

In both Retail and Healthcare, Inspectors found in many cases no activities were restricted on stairs/ steps. There was no mention of restricting handheld devices/ phones. In both sectors there was a lack of signs at escalators to advise of nearby stairs/ lifts. In many Healthcare cases there was a lack of contrasting stair nosings. In Retail, steps were not always found to be consistent and stair goings and risers were not always felt to be adequate. On a positive note, Inspectors reported that businesses found the crouch-and-sight test very useful.



Cleaning

In the Retail sector, Inspectors reported a failure to allocate clear responsibility for cleaning, problems with the type and amount of floor cleaning chemical. On a positive note, Inspectors found that risks from floor cleaning in retail were reduced by cleaning floors out-of-hours.



Footwear

Where relevant - in 6 Retail and 5 Healthcare workplaces - Inspectors found a lack of consideration of slip resistance of overshoes/shoe covers. In Retail, there was a failure to provide slip resistant footwear where required. In Healthcare, there was a failure of employers to bear costs of slip-resistant footwear.





STF Campaign 2014

negative responses over 15%

