

Health & Safety Checklist for UK Businesses in 2026

Health & Safety Checklist 2026

A practical compliance tool for employers, managers, and safety leads

1. Health & Safety Policy

- Written health & safety policy in place (required if 5+ employees)
- Statement of Intent signed by senior management
- Roles and responsibilities clearly defined
- Arrangements section updated for 2026
- Policy reviewed within the last 12 months

2. Risk Assessments

- Up-to-date risk assessments for all significant hazards
- Control measures implemented and monitored
- Findings recorded and communicated to staff
- Assessments reviewed after changes, incidents, or annually
- Specific assessments completed (COSHH, DSE, manual handling, noise, etc.)

3. RAMS (Risk Assessments & Method Statements)

- RAMS created for higher-risk tasks
- Task-specific hazards identified
- Method statements clear and practical
- RAMS communicated to staff and contractors
- Reviewed after any changes or incidents

4. Training & Competency

- Induction training completed for all new starters
- Job-specific training provided (manual handling, PPE, equipment use)
- Supervisors trained in their H&S responsibilities
- Refresher training scheduled and recorded
- Competency assessed and documented

5. Fire Safety

- Fire risk assessment completed and reviewed
- Fire alarms, extinguishers, and emergency lighting maintained
- Fire evacuation routes clear and signed
- Fire marshals appointed and trained
- Fire drills carried out and recorded



6. Equipment & Premises Safety

- Machinery and tools inspected regularly
- Electrical equipment PAT tested
- Fixed wiring inspection up to date
- LOLER inspections completed (if applicable)
- Pressure systems maintained (PSSR)
- Walkways clear and well-lit
- Welfare facilities clean and adequate

7. Accident & Incident Reporting

- Accident reporting procedure in place
- Near-miss reporting encouraged and recorded
- RIDDOR reporting understood and followed
- Investigations completed for all incidents
- Corrective actions implemented and monitored

8. First Aid Provision

- First-aid needs assessment completed
- Trained first aiders or appointed persons available
- First-aid kits stocked and checked
- First-aid information displayed
- Records kept of first-aid incidents

9. Contractor Management

- Contractors vetted for competence
- Site-specific inductions provided
- Relevant risk assessments shared
- Contractor activities monitored
- Post-work review completed



10. Safety Culture & Communication

- Staff encouraged to report hazards
- Safety meetings or briefings held regularly
- Clear communication channels for H&S concerns
- Positive reinforcement of safe behaviour
- Senior leadership visibly committed to safety

11. Annual Review & Planning

- All policies reviewed for 2026
- Training matrix updated
- Risk assessments refreshed
- Fire safety arrangements checked
- Compliance goals set for the year ahead

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