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## Health and safety duties for businesses that design products for workplaces

This fact sheet is for businesses or undertakings that design products that may be used at a workplace.

As a designer you can eliminate or minimise health and safety risks by designing products (this could be plant, substances or structures) that are safe for people who come into contact with them.

Often it is more efficient and cost-effective to design products that are safe to use, than for end-users to retrofit health and safety solutions to poorly designed products.

### Who is a designer?

A 'designer' is any business or undertaking that creates or modifies a design, or gets a person under their control to do so. Examples include architects, industrial designers, engineers and software designers.

### What are your duties?

In addition to your primary duty of care, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 you must also (so far as is reasonably practicable):

- make sure the products you design do not create health and safety risks to the people that use them and those nearby
- make sure the products you design have been tested so they are safe for use in a workplace. If you are working on part of an overall design you need to do this for the part you design

- give the following information to those you provide your design to:
  - your design's purpose or intended use
  - the results of calculations and tests
  - any general and current relevant information about how to safely use, handle, store, construct, inspect, clean, maintain, repair, or otherwise work near the products you have designed.

These requirements apply across your design's entire lifecycle - from manufacture and construction, through to everyday use, decommissioning and disposal.

### Further information

WorkSafe special guide:

[Introduction to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

WorkSafe fact sheet: [Reasonably Practicable](#)

WorkSafe good practice guidelines:

[Health and Safety by Design - An Introduction](#)

### Relevant legislation

[Section 39 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

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