

SAFETY CONVERSATION

SC4 - Obstructions

CUT IT OUT SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN

In this safety conversation you will learn how to reduce the risk of slips trips and falls associated with obstructions. Everyone can make a contribution to reducing slips and trips – see it, sort it...or shall we say **Cut It Out**.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Walkways** - It is not just good enough to have a walkway unless it is kept clear with no trailing wires and no obstructions. If you see items on the floor where someone could trip over them, remove them, or arrange for them to be removed, or for the situation to be made safe. Don't leave it for others to do it - **see it, sort it, and make sure you report it**.
- **Stock and Equipment** - Trips and falls over stock and equipment can be avoided simply by ensuring everything is stored in a designated place and out of the walkways. Good housekeeping practices are crucial in preventing slips, trips and falls. So be mindful of your colleagues and try to **keep your work and storage areas tidy and free from obstructions**.
- **Other obstructions** - Deliveries, rubbish, empty boxes - you name it! Many incidents involve tripping over delivered stock left to be put away, or rubbish bags waiting to be taken out. When it gets busy it's difficult to keep up with everything, but remember, it only takes a few minutes to take the rubbish out, and much longer to heal a broken leg. It could help to **make clear the responsibilities for putting away delivery or waste removal, so it's not left for "others" to do**.

FOLLOW RULES

- Ensure all walkways are free from obstructions
- Keep your stock and equipment in the designated place, so they don't become obstructions



BE MINDFUL

- See it, sort it, report it – don't wait for others to do it
- Keep your work and storage area tidy – be mindful of your colleagues



SPEAK OUT

- Make sure you report near misses before they become incidents
- If you see any unsafe practices or hazards, let your team or manager know



GET INVOLVED

- Use team talks to share your ideas on how to make your workplace safe
- Communicate any near misses to your colleagues



PUTTING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT INTO PRACTICE

Walk around your workplace and see if you can spot any obstructions on your way. If you do find obstructions:

- Can you remove them right away?
- What can be done to avoid obstructing these walkways / corridors again?
- Have you put your delivery away today?