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COMPANY GIVES AWAY FREE TOOL TO HELP FIRMS WITH RETURNING WORKFORCES

Cardiff consultancy issues free COVID-compliant Risk Assessment tool

A Cardiff-based business consultancy is giving away a free tool to help companies navigate getting their employees back to work in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ideas Distillery, a company that helps organisations implement management systems, has released a user-friendly Risk Assessment tool based on current health guidance to help employers ensure their workplaces are ready to help keep the virus at bay.

Russell Lawson, Managing Director, said: “As isolation is eased and people return to work, governments across the UK are requiring organisations to complete risk assessments as part of the permission to resume normal service.

“Health and safety law requires employers, who continue to operate under current circumstances, to do ‘what is reasonably practicable’ to protect their staff and members of the public.

“To fulfil this duty in addressing the risk from COVID-19 all companies must review their risk assessments and put in place measures to ensure the guidance available from their respective governments is implemented.

“We developed this tool to be a quick and easy way to help firms meet this requirement so they can get back to operating as quickly as possible – their livelihoods, and the that of their staff, are at stake. We created this simply to help companies on this journey, and we hope it proves useful,” he said.

The tool is based on Public Health England guidelines as these are the first to look at getting workplaces back to speed, and asks 100 workplace health-related questions which the company rates, then describes any controls it currently has in place, or will put in place as soon as it’s able.

It can be downloaded at: <https://www.ideasdistillery.co.uk/ideas-distillery-blog>

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the minimum employers must do is:

- identify what could cause injury or illness in your business (hazards)
- decide how likely it is that someone could be harmed and how seriously (the risk)
- take action to eliminate the hazard, or if this isn’t possible, control the risk



- Assessing risk is just one part of the overall process used to control risks in your workplace.

Risk assessment covering exposure to Covid-19 will be different from one organisation to another. Healthcare workers, retail cashiers, home delivery drivers, utility engineers and construction workers all have different exposure to this risk.

A risk assessment should recognise the virus as a hazard. It should also reflect that the virus is spread in minute water droplets that are expelled from the body through sneezing, coughing, talking and breathing.

About The Ideas Distillery: We help companies to implement quality, environmental, health & safety and information security management systems, often so ISO certification can be achieved. As an ISO consultancy there is a big focus on taking a risk-based approach and the assessment of risk, evaluating effectiveness of control measures, complying with regulations, legislation, etc.

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