

Health, Safety and Wellbeing policy

Internal policy: LIT 66349

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Audience: Environment Agency

Health, safety and wellbeing is the priority in everything we do. The Environment Agency will not compromise in seeking to prevent harm to our people, partners and the public caused by our activities.

We do things safely or not at all.

The Environment Agency recognises our duty to ensure that all of us, and those who may be affected by our work, are protected from harm.

The Environment Agency will comply with all health, safety and wellbeing legislation, but will go further. Our aspiration is to achieve excellence in health, safety and wellbeing, through a culture of continual improvement in line with the ISO 45001 standard for health and safety management systems.

The Environment Agency will:

- Seek to prevent incidents, accidents and work-related physical and mental ill health.
- Use risk assessment to manage health, safety and wellbeing risks wherever we work.
- Maintain a safe and healthy working environment, where health, safety and wellbeing are equal considerations.
- Set health, safety and wellbeing objectives and measure our performance against these.
- Encourage the reporting of incidents, ill-health, near misses and good practice, and seek to learn from these events.
- Provide sufficient resources and time to enable this policy to be delivered.
- Provide and maintain safe plant and equipment, including any personal protective and IT equipment.
- Ensure safe handling and use of hazardous substances.
- Implement and test emergency procedures, including for fire and other significant incidents.
- Provide clear instruction, information, and training, to ensure colleagues have the skills, knowledge and gain the experience to be competent to do their work.
- Ensure colleagues and contractors are aware of their health, safety and wellbeing responsibilities and publicise learning from ours or others' experience through regular communication.
- Consult with our Trade Union and other colleagues on matters affecting their health, safety and wellbeing.
- Undertake audits to assure that our top risks are being managed.
- Assess any change we make to understand the potential implications to health, safety and wellbeing.

- Review and revise this policy and our health and safety commitments annually and regularly communicate them to colleagues.

All Environment Agency colleagues must co-operate with the Environment Agency's Leadership Team on health, safety and wellbeing matters; take reasonable care of their own health, safety and wellbeing and that of others, and report all health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

This policy will enable us all to go home safe and well at the end of the day.

We are committed to this policy and give it our full backing.



Philip Duffy
Chief Executive



Alan Lovell
Chair

July 2023