

Health & Safety Policy

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1. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

1.1

It is the policy of Marmoset Media to comply with the terms of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent legislation, to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

1.2

Marmoset Media also recognises and accepts its responsibility to protect the health and safety of all visitors to the workplace (including contractors, temporary staff and any members of the public) who might be affected by our activities.

1.3

To provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising from our work practices.

1.4

To consult regularly with all staff regarding all matters affecting their health and safety.

1.5

To ensure the safe handling and use of dangerous/toxic substances.

1.6

To ensure at least one member of staff (ideally current health and safety officer) is trained in first aid and that this person is made known to all staff.

1.7

To ensure a risk assessment is conducted at least once a year.

1.8

To ensure all staff are advised and trained in the health and safety practices of the company

1.9

To ensure as best to our capabilities that all accidents and office related illnesses are duly reported in the accident book.

1.10

To ensure that all office equipment meets standard health and safety requirements.

1.11

A copy of this policy will be issued to each member of staff. The policy will be kept up to date and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed each year.

1.12

The specific arrangements for the implementation of the policy and the personnel responsible are set out below.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

2.1 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2.1.1

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a statutory duty on all employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of all its employees at work and other people who may be affected by their activities, e.g. users, volunteers, members of the public.

2.1.2

The Executive Committee, as the employer, has overall and final responsibility for health and safety matters at Marmoset Media, and for ensuring that health and safety legislation is complied with.

2.1.3 The Executive Committee will review the operation of its health and safety policy annually.

2.2 THE DIRECTOR

2.2.1

The Director has overall responsibility for ensuring that the health and safety policy is put into practice at Marmoset Media's premises. In particular the Director will ensure that:-

- employees receive sufficient information, training and supervision on health and safety matters
- line managers are aware of their responsibilities to their staff and volunteers
- a risk assessment is undertaken and the results written up and made available to all employees
- accidents are investigated and reported to the Executive Committee
- there are arrangements in place to monitor the maintenance of the premises and equipment
- there are adequate arrangements to liaise and co-operate on health and safety matters with other employers sharing Marmoset Media premises.

- that Marmoset Media accepts its responsibility for the health and safety of its employees based in the offices of other organisations.
- ensure that the Marmoset Media Health and Safety Working group has the time, facilities and resources to carry out its business effectively.

2.3 COMPETENT PERSONS

2.3.1

The Director will appoint from amongst the Marmoset Media employees, at least one “competent person” as defined in the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1993.

2.3.2

Competent persons will report to the Director and will assist in assessing the health and safety risks to Marmoset Media ‘s employees and devising and applying measures to improve health and safety. The Director will ensure that the competent persons have adequate time, information, training and resources to undertake their task.

2.3.3

All employees will be told who the competent persons are.

2.3.4

The competent person at the time of issuing this policy statement is Maurice Mcleod– Director.

2.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKING GROUP

2.4.1 As part of this policy, Marmoset Media will establish a Health and Safety Working Group which shall comprise of the following:-

- 1 x Full-time staff representative
- 1 x management representative

2.4.2

The Working Party will have the following terms of reference:-

(a) to monitor the implementation of the Marmoset Media health and safety Policy including Risk assessments.

(b) to monitor and review all health and safety incidents and make recommendations where appropriate.

2.5 ALL EMPLOYEES

2.5.1

All employees have the responsibility to co-operate with the Director and the Executive Committee to achieve a safe and healthy workplace and to take reasonable care of themselves and others.

2.5.2

Employees must not intentionally or recklessly interfere with anything provided for their health, safety and welfare. Serious breaches of the Health and Safety Policy and rules (eg misusing equipment, deliberately putting someone else’s safety in danger) will be dealt with through Marmoset Media’s Disciplinary Procedure.

2.5.3

Employees must not intentionally or recklessly interfere with anything provided for their health, safety and welfare. Serious breaches of the Health and Safety Policy and rules (eg misusing equipment, deliberately putting someone else's safety in danger) will be dealt with through Marmoset Media's Disciplinary Procedure.

2.5.4 Whenever an employee, notices a health or safety problem which they are unable to put right, they must immediately inform the line manager, or, or one of the competent persons named above, (or the Fire Officer or first aider if this seems more appropriate - see below). They may also inform the union safety representative.

2.5.6

Whenever an employee, notices a health or safety problem which they are unable to put right, they must immediately inform the line manager, or, or one of the competent persons named above, (or the Fire Officer or first aider if this seems more appropriate - see below). They may also inform the union safety representative.

2.5.7

Health, safety and welfare matters may be raised by any employee at Marmoset Media staff meetings.

2.6 FIRE OFFICER

2.6.1

Marmoset Media will appoint a Fire Officers who shall receive appropriate training. At the time of issue of this policy the Fire Officer is Maurice Mcleod.

2.6.2

The responsibilities of Fire Officers will be to:

- meet on a regular basis with each other and the Office Manager
- be instructed on potential fire hazards and the use of fire fighting equipment
- ensure the Office Manager arranges the testing of fire alarms and fire drills
- assist with the efficient evacuation of Marmoset Media staff and visitors.
- liaise with the Fire Brigade and Office Manager at the assembly point.
- ensure Marmoset Media staff are aware of the fire alarm and fire drill.

FOR DETAILED FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS SEE SECTION 8.

2.7 FIRST AIDERS

2.7.1

At the time of issuing of this policy the employees, who have undertaken a recognised training course approved by the Health and Safety Executive is Maurice Mcleod. Another person will be identified and trained as a reserve.

2.7.2

The trained first aider(s) named above will ensure that the first aid box is kept in the correct place, contains the items laid down in the Code of Practice and Guidance Notes published by the Health and Safety Executive (and nothing else) and is regularly restocked.

FOR DETAILED FIRST AID AND ACCIDENT ARRANGEMENTS SEE SECTION 10.

2.8 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.8.1

Marmoset Media will ensure that a competent person carries out a risk assessment in accordance with the 1992 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP). This risk assessment will be written up, and be made available to all staff.

2.8.2

The written risk assessment will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure it covers all employees against all risks, and to ensure that any action identified as needed in the risk assessment has been carried out. The risk assessment will also be updated every time that there is a major change in working practices.

2.8.3

The risk assessment will cover all Marmoset Media employees, wherever they may be based, and will cover all aspects of their work.

2.9 TRAINING

2.9.1

Marmoset Media will ensure that new employees and volunteers receive information on health and safety as part of their induction.

2.9.2

Marmoset Media will organise training for employees and volunteers on health and safety matters as appropriate, including: general health and safety training, first aid, manual handling, fire safety, risk assessment. Marmoset Media will also organise training for appropriate use of equipment, and any special training needed to ensure safe systems of work.

2.9.3 If employees and volunteers consider they have health and safety training needs they should inform their line manager.

3. BUILDING MAINTENANCE

3.1

Marmoset Media has a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for staff and volunteers. The Competent Persons will be responsible for liaising with the Office Manager to ensure that any repairs are carried out swiftly with the minimum of disruption.

3.2

All Marmoset Media staff are responsible for spotting hazards or potential hazards. If a hazard is seen, it should be removed or dealt with as soon as possible, or if not, reported to the Office Manager.

3.3 EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS:

3.3.1

Things out of reach:

Chairs or other furniture must not be used to stand on for the purposes of replacing light bulbs, reaching for things off tops of cupboards etc. A properly maintained, undamaged stepladder must be used.

3.3.2

Damaged Equipment:

Regular checks must be carried out on furniture and equipment for damage, which leave sharp edges protruding or other hazards. Any damaged furniture must be reported for repair or condemnation straight away and must be removed from use.

3.3.3

Damage to Fabric of Building, Windows etc:

All such damage must be reported immediately to the Office Manager.

3.3.4

Misplaced Furniture, Equipment or Supplies.

Any furniture, equipment or supplies left in an inappropriate place, for example obstructing a gangway, must be removed immediately, and placed in an appropriate, safe place.

4. GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

4.1 AISLES & GANGWAYS

4.1.1

Gangways must be kept clear from obstructions and materials must be stored in safe areas. Under no circumstances must goods or materials be stacked immediately in front of or obstructing fire doors, fire exits, fire alarms or fire equipment.

4.2 SMOKING

4.2.1

Marmoset Media is a non-smoking building. Staff may smoke only outside.

4.3 OVERCROWDING

4.3.1

The general minimum space per person, recommended by the 1992 Regulations is 11 cubic metres. Marmoset Media will avoid unhealthy and overcrowded working conditions, and will consult staff on any changes in office layout.

4.4 VENTILATION

4.4.1

Marmoset Media will endeavour to provide a well-ventilated workplace in which staff have control over their local level of ventilation.

4.5 TEMPERATURE

4.5.1

In office workplaces a minimum temperature of 16°C must be maintained, Efforts will be made so far as is reasonably practical to ensure the workplace temperature does not rise to an uncomfortable level. A thermometer will be provided in a conspicuous place and in such a position as to be easily seen. Marmoset Media will do all in its power to ensure reasonable temperatures in the workplace at all times.

4.6 LIGHTING

4.6.1

Adequate lighting must be provided. If lights are found to be out of order, the fault must be corrected as soon as reasonably possible.

4.7 NOISE

4.7.1

Marmoset Media staff work within an open plan office and therefore a certain level of noise is unavoidable, however Marmoset Media will endeavour to ensure that noise are kept to as low a level as is practicable.

4.8 OFFICE ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS

4.8.1

Office equipment such as photocopiers and printers can emit pollutants into the atmosphere. Marmoset Media will take reasonable precautions in ensuring that these levels are kept as low as is possible. Employees will not be expected to work in enclosed spaces with equipment that emit atmospheric pollutants. Spaces where these pollutants are present shall be kept well ventilated.

4.9 EQUIPMENT STORAGE AND USAGE

4.9.1

Equipment must not be left lying around but must be suitably stored.

No wires must be left trailing across floors. Non-flammable rubbish bins must be positioned at various points. Except in emergencies, and with the permission of the Director, no paraffin, bar electric or calor gas fires will be used at Marmoset Media premises.

4.10 ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

4.10.1

All building maintenance such as electrical work, carpentry, painting etc should be carried out by skilled people. No staff should endanger themselves or others by carrying out such work.

4.10.2

Broken, ineffective or damaged electrical equipment must be reported to the Office Manager. Staff should never perform unsafe practices such as: jamming wires in sockets with matchsticks or nails, improvising a junction box, running power tools from lamp sockets so that they cannot be earthed, forcing a plug into the wrong socket, using improvised wrongly rated fuses for the current that the equipment is carrying, hanging cables on nails or allowing them to trail in pools of water, using equipment with the earth wire pulled out of its terminal, misusing an earthing clamp on welding sets etc.

5. WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Marmoset Media will seek to ensure that suitable and sufficient toilets and washing facilities are provided for all staff in accordance with the minimum requirements of Health and Safety legislation, i.e:

Number at work Number of toilets/washbasins

1-5 1

6-25 2

26-50 3

Each toilet will be in a separate, lockable room. washing facilities will include a supply of clean hot and cold water, soap and suitable means of drying (eg paper towels)

5.2 DRINKING WATER

5.2.2

An adequate supply of drinking water will be provided for all staff.

5.3 REST AREAS

5.3.2 So far as is reasonably practicable Marmoset Media will provide all staff with seating in a rest area, where they may rest during normal work breaks.

5.4 PREGNANT WOMEN

5.4.2

Suitable rest facilities will be provided for pregnant employees.

5.5 HOURS OF WORK

5.5.2

Marmoset Media employees should not work excessively long hours, and should take adequate breaks for meals and rest as indicated within their statements of terms and conditions of employment.

6. PERSONAL SAFETY

6.1 OFFICE SECURITY

6.1.2

It is in the nature of Marmoset Media's work that staff or volunteers may, on rare occasions, find themselves in potentially dangerous situations whilst on Marmoset Media business. The following policy is concerned to minimise the risk to people working for Marmoset Media.

6.1.3

Staff or volunteers who are working on their own should not allow access to casual visitors who have no appointment. Such callers should be encouraged to make an appointment.

6.1.4

Where staff are dealing with an individual but feel uneasy about being alone with him or her they have the right to refuse to make an appointment or give access if it would put them in that position. In these situations Marmoset Media management will put their trust in the feelings of the worker.

6.1.5

All windows and entry doors will be lockable.

6.2 PREVENTION WHILST AWAY FROM NORMAL WORKPLACE ON Marmoset Media BUSINESS

6.2.1

Staff who are going to be away on Marmoset Media business should make it clear to other staff where they will be, how long for and how they can be contacted.

6.2.2

If in the course of a trip away from the office plans change significantly, this should be communicated back to the office.

6.2.3

Staff should make clear whom they wish to be informed (outside of work) in the event of an emergency and how they can normally be contacted.

6.2.4

Marmoset Media will keep a personal alarm for use by staff.

6.3 PREVENTION WHILST HOLDING OR CARRYING MONEY OR VALUABLES FOR Marmoset Media

6.3.1

Staff who carry money for Marmoset Media have the right to be accompanied by another person.

6.3.2

Large amounts of cash, over and above petty cash should not be kept on Marmoset Media premises.

6.3.3

Visits to the bank should not be at a regular time.

6.3.4

Under no circumstances should staff put themselves at risk on account of Marmoset Media's property. If money is demanded with threats it should be handed over.

6.4 PERSONAL AWARENESS:

6.4.1

There are lots of things we already do that keep us safe, but becoming more aware of our surroundings puts us in control of our environment. The following steps are recommended to Marmoset Media staff as being helpful.

6.5 WHILST OUT AND ABOUT:

Trust your intuition and listen to your feelings. If you sense something is wrong, it probably is. Acting on intuition may prevent an aggressive situation.

Be prepared. Do you know whom to contact and what to do if a difficult situation arises? Find out and if there is no one designated, ask for a supervisor or manager to be nominated.

Be observant. Notice everything around you - exit doors, telephones, windows, and sources of help. This will make you more aware of your surroundings and help you escape if you need to.

Assess potential risks. Avoid dangerous short cuts, walk facing the traffic on the street side of pavements, think about where you park your car and remember where you have parked it.

Make sure you have all relevant information with you. Have you checked to see if there is a known problem with whom you are or where you are going?

Look confident. "Walking tall" and being aware of your surroundings deters assailants.

Never stay in a situation where you think you may be at risk. Don't feel you have to stay because of your work. You can see the client, arrange the visit or do the interview again. You can ask a colleague to come in or be with you. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Be aware of personal space - yours and others. Encroaching on other peoples personal space can make them aggressive. If other people are too close to you and making you uncomfortable, ask for more space or move away.

Don't get into lifts with people who make you feel uneasy. If you are in a lift and feel uncomfortable, get out and use the stairs, or wait for another lift. Make sure you know where the emergency button is and stand where you can reach it.

Don't accept lifts in vehicles from people you have no reason to trust. Think about what you are wearing, can you run if you need to?

6.6 IN DEALING WITH AGGRESSION

If you find yourself in an aggressive situation, what can you do?

Try to stay calm if someone is starting to get angry. Your body language, voice and response can help to defuse a situation. Take a deep breath, keep your voice on an even keel, and try to help.

Offer an angry person a range of options from which they can choose the one they prefer. They will find it difficult to stay angry.

Do not be aggressive back - this is how anger can escalate into violence.

Are you the best person to deal with this situation? Going to get someone else if often helpful particularly if they can solve a problem that you can't.

Get on the same level as the aggressor. If they are standing so should you. It makes you feel less vulnerable and makes it easier for you to get away or fetch help if necessary.

Keep your balance and keep your distance.

Do not touch someone who is angry.

Don't let your escape route be blocked.

Keep yourself between an escape route and an aggressor so you can still get away.

If the situation is dangerous, then get away as fast as you can. Never remain alone with an actively violent person.

If you cannot get away, then scream or use the panic alarm.

6.7 REPORTING AND RECORDING

6.7.1

All incidents of aggression or violence should be reported to management and recorded in the accident book.

6.7.2

Employers have a responsibility to provide a safe working environment. Staff should report any current or potential situation at work, which is a threat to personal safety. Talking about fear and other problems related to aggression or harassment are not marks of failure but good practice. A serious incident, even if it results in no physical harm, may cause feelings of fear, panic or despair, which can carry on long afterwards. The management of Marmoset Media recognises this and will be disposed to provide whatever support, counselling or time off work seems appropriate.

7. VISUAL DISPLAY EQUIPMENT

7.1 GENERAL

7.1.1

It is the policy of Marmoset Media to comply with the law as set out in the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992.

7.1.2

Marmoset Media will conduct health and safety assessments of all workstations staffed by employees who use VDU screens as part of their usual work. All workstations must meet the requirements set out in the Schedule to the Regulations.

7.2 NATURE AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

7.2.1

Appropriate seating must be available to all users.

7.2.2

Staff will take regular breaks (at least 10 minutes away for every hour at the screen). Short frequent breaks are more satisfactory than occasional longer breaks.

7.3 EQUIPMENT

7.3.1

Resources will be sought by Marmoset Media to:-

- (a) provide VDUs with a detachable and adjustable screen, i.e. in height, swivel etc, to allow for the individual preference of the operator.
- (b) provide computer cleaning supplies.
- (c) provide a wrist and foot rest at each workstation
- (d) an anti-static mat at each workstation.
- (e) provide keyboards which are separate from screens.
- (f) provide anti glare screens, where direct light cannot be prevented from falling on the screen.
- (g) provide adequate workstation space.

7.4 MAINTENANCE

7.4.1

The Office Manager should hold copies of manufacturers' detailed instructions on the maintenance of machinery, and will ensure that maintenance contracts are adhered to and, where appropriate, renewed.

7.5 EYE AND EYESIGHT TESTS

7.5.1

New staff are entitled to have eyesight tests paid for by Marmoset Media.

7.5.2

Where a member of staff is experiencing eyesight problems attributable to their work with VDUs she/he will be entitled to have an eyesight test paid for by Marmoset Media.

7.5.3

Where a test shows that as a result of work with Marmoset Media VDUs a member of staff needs to purchase special corrective appliances (usually glasses) Marmoset Media will pay for these. This excludes those normally used for purposes other than work with VDUs.

7.6 WRULDS/RSI

7.6.1

Work Related Upper Limb Disorders (also known as Repetitive Strain Injury) are often associated with keyboard work. It is the intention of Marmoset Media, by following best advice to provide VDU/keyboard equipment and furniture, which help prevent the development of these musculoskeletal disorders. Staff however should contribute to their own safety and welfare by:

- avoiding sitting in the same position for long periods
- adjusting equipment and furniture to appropriate/comfortable positions
- taking a rest break from VDU work (at least 10 minutes away every hour) by doing some other work.

8. FIRE SAFETY

8.1 GENERAL

8.1.1

It is not only the responsibility of the Fire Officer, but of all staff to be aware of fire hazards, to know the location of fire exits and the assembly point. Everyone must know the fire drill instructions, and these will be part of the induction process for all new staff and volunteers.

8.1.2

Access to escape doors, extinguishers and other fire fighting equipment must not be obstructed and all Fire Officers will be instructed on their use.

8.2 FIRE DRILLS

8.2.1

The Marmoset Media Fire Officer is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of the evacuation procedures. The Fire Officer has the power to remove obstructions from fire exits. The Fire Officer should liaise with the Office manager after each evacuation to review the success or otherwise of the evacuation and to make recommendations for improved practices.

8.2.2

Visitors to Marmoset Media and all Marmoset Media staff, including volunteers, must be made fully familiar with the escape routes and the Marmoset Media assembly points.

8.3 FIRE DRILL PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire:

- Evacuate the building immediately by the front exit.
- Ensure any visitors leave the building.
- Do not put yourself at risk.
- Assemble in the forecourt of the BP service station on Trinity Road.
- Do not re-enter the building for any reason until the Office Manager or fire brigade confirm that it is safe to do so.

If You Discover A Fire

- Alert all members of staff and public in the building.
- Evacuate the building immediately as above.

9. UNIVERSAL HYGIENE CONTROLS

9.1

All areas must be kept clean and tidy.

9.2

Toilets must be washed regularly and kept clean.

9.3

If practicable all washbasins should be provided with hot water, soap, clean paper towels or hand dryers.

9.4

Vending machines for sanitary products and disposal bins should be provided. Bins should be emptied and sanitised regularly.

10. FIRST AID AND ACCIDENT REPORTING

10.1 FIRST AID

10.1.1

In all Marmoset Media premises First Aid provision will be available at all times in an appropriate and accessible First Aid Box.

10.1.2

The first aid box is kept in the Marmoset Media Office.

10.1.3

At least one employee will receive will receive appropriate first aid training

10.1.4

All new employees will be told as part of their induction of the location of first aid equipment and the employees who have received first aid training.

10.1.5

A record of all first aid cases treated will be kept in the Accident Book, which will be kept with the First Aid box.

10.2 ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

10.2.1 All employees must report all incidents which did or nearly resulted in personal injury to themselves or others, to their line manager and the Office Manager and make sure the accident is recorded in the Accident Book.

10.2.6

It is the responsibility of the Office Manager to ensure that any necessary follow up action is taken to reduce the risk of the accident or near accident reoccurring.

10.2.7

The Office Manager is responsible for reporting incidents, which come within the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR), to the London Borough of Islington Environmental Health Department. RIDDOR covers the following incidents:-

- (a) fatal accidents
- (b) major injury accidents\conditions
- (c) dangerous occurrences
- (d) accidents causing more than 3 days incapacity for work
- (e) certain work-related diseases

11. COSHH

11.1 GENERAL STATEMENT

11.1.1

Under the 1992 COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations employers have a duty to make an assessment of the risks related to hazardous substances eg chemicals, noxious fumes etc. In accordance with the Approved Code of Practice this assessment will be carried out and written down by a nominated competent person.

11.1.2

Following this assessment, in accordance with the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) Marmoset Media will:

- (a) In the first instance take action to remove any hazardous substances
- (b) If this is not possible then action shall be taken to find a substitute for the hazardous substance
- (c) If this is not possible such substances shall be enclosed within a safe environment
- (d) If none of the above are possible protective equipment will be issued to ensure the safety of staff.

11.2 MONITORING

11.2.1

If for any reason a member of staff has to be exposed to a possibly hazardous substance, levels of exposure will be monitored.

11.2.2

At all times levels of ill-health related to exposure to hazardous substances at work will be monitored.

11.3 REMOVAL, SUBSTITUTION, ENCLOSURE AND PROTECTION

11.3.1

All members of staff shall avoid using hazardous substances at all times if at all possible. Where substitute materials are available they should be used (eg water based markers, correction fluid etc). If there is no way of avoiding use of a hazardous substance, then staff must use the substance in an enclosed, ventilated environment away from other workers, and use proper protective equipment, which shall be made available by Marmoset Media

12. MANUAL HANDLING

12.1

Marmoset Media employees should avoid manual lifting where at all possible. However, employees may occasionally be required to manually lift and handle loads. Correct manual lifting and handling reduces the effort required and prevents strain and risk of injury.

12.2 The most likely occurrences of manual handling for Marmoset Media employees are:

- the receipt and storage of stationary orders
- moving paper records into archive storage
- rearranging the office furniture and equipment
- handling loads at outside events organised by Marmoset Media employees.

12.3

All employees should use aids which are available to reduce the risk of injury, e.g. sack trolley, lifts.

12.4

Employees should not put themselves at risk by attempting to lift heavy loads which could be divided into smaller quantities. The assistance of other employees should always be sought for moving large quantities or for lifting heavy and awkward loads. When lifting in a team take instructions from one person only.

12.5

Any employee feeling a strain should stop immediately and record the incident in the Accident Book. To continue may result in more serious injury.

13. STRESS MANAGEMENT

13.1

Stress at work is a serious issue: workers can suffer severe medical problems, which can result in under-performance at work, and cause major disruptions to the organisation. Throughout the UK 90 million working days each year are lost as a result of stress, costing employers £1.3 billion. (TUC/Dept of Health).

13.2

Stress is a workplace hazard that must be dealt with like any other. Thus the responsibility for reducing stress at work lies both with employer and employee.

13.3

The Health and Safety Executive has identified the following primary causes of stress at work:

Context Organisational function and culture

- Poor task environment
- Lack of definition of objectives
- Poor problem solving environment
- Poor development environment
- Poor communication
- Non supportive culture

Role in organisation

- Role ambiguity
- Role conflict

Career development

- Career uncertainty
- Career stagnation
- Poor status/status incongruity
- Poor pay
- Job insecurity and redundancy
- Low social value of work

Decision latitude/control

- Low participation in decision making
- Lack of control over work
- Little decision making in work Overload of decision making

Interpersonal relationships at work

- Social or physical isolation
- Poor relationships with superiors
- Interpersonal conflict and violence
- Lack of social support

Home/work interface

- Conflicting demands of home and work
- Low social or practical support at home
- Dual career problems

Contents

- Task design
- Poorly defined work
- High uncertainty in work
- Lack of variety, or short work cycles
- Fragmented or meaningless work
- Under-utilisation of skill
- Continual exposure to client/customer groups

Workload/pace/schedule (quantitative/qualitative)

- Inflexible work schedule
- Unpredictable work hours
- Long or unsocial work hours

Marmoset Media will do all it can to eradicate problems relating to stress at work. In particular Marmoset Media will:

- Ensure close employee involvement, particularly during periods of change.
- Give opportunities for staff to contribute in the planning and organisation of their own jobs.
- Ensure staff have work targets that are stretching, but reasonable.
- Implement effective policies and procedures for dealing with bullying and any form of harassment
- Encourage good communications between staff and management.
- Promote the maintenance of a supportive culture in the workplace.
- Where appropriate, take into consideration an employees personal problems/problems at home.
- Ensure employees avoid working long and unsocial hours.

13.5

Marmoset Media will ensure that all policies, working practices, conditions of employment etc. do not contradict with the above statement.

13.6

Employees should become aware of the causes of stress, and ensure that they do not work in a way which could cause them to suffer an increase in stress, nor cause an increase in stress on others.

13.7

Employees must respect other members of staff, and ensure that interpersonal conflicts are avoided or dealt with sensibly.

13.8

Employees must not make unrealistic demands of other workers, by imposing impossible deadlines and/or increasing others' workloads to a level they cannot cope with.

13.9

Employees should participate with Marmoset Media's intention to maintain a co-operative, supportive work-place environment.

13.10

If an employee is suffering from stress at work, they should discuss this with their line manager or Office Manager at the first opportunity. Where practicable and reasonable, Marmoset Media will seek to provide assistance to the employee.

14. CONTACTS

Local health and safety inspector's office and telephone number:

Safety and Standards Team, Environmental Services Division
Wandsworth Borough Council,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU
Tel: 020 8871 6160

Health and Safety Executive Publications

Free leaflets on all aspects of Health and Safety:
HSE Books,
PO Box 1999,
Sudbury,
Suffolk CO10 6FS.
Tel: 01787 881165.

Health and Safety Executive

London South Office:
Rose Court,
2 Southwark Bridge,
London,
SE1 9HS.
Tel: 020 7556 2100

London Hazards Centre

Advice, training and COSHH data sheets etc:
Interchange Studios,
Dalby Street,
London
NW5 3NQ.
Tel: 020 7267 3387.