

Taking the strain out of corporate eye tests

Employers that have the vision to look after their team's health and well-being benefit from an engaged, loyal and productive workforce. Taking care of your employees' eyes is part of this.

In today's digital world, eyes often take the strain through long hours working at a computer screen. This means looking after the health of your employees' eyes is not only important, but is a legal requirement.

Health and safety regulations mean that companies have certain obligations to any member of staff who regularly uses computers or other display screens as part of their job. This means employees should have a regular eye examination, every one to two years, paid for by their company.

As well as checking vision, tests can also detect early warning signs of serious conditions such as high blood pressure, glaucoma and diabetes.

Contact us today to find out more about our corporate eye care package – because when you care for your team, they care for your business.





Understanding the law

The Health & Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992; as amended by the Health & Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002, place a responsibility on employers to provide an eye care scheme for those staff who use equipment with a display screen, and provide appropriate spectacles where needed.

The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations apply to all employees who 'habitually use display screen equipment as a significant part of their normal work'. This covers anyone who uses a VDU for near-continuous spells of an hour or more at a time.

It is the employer's responsibility to train users, assess workstations, reduce the risks and plan changes of activity or breaks for users.

The decision to prescribe varifocal, occupational or single vision lenses for computer use is ultimately the optometrist's. If such lenses are prescribed, the optometrist will liaise with you and where necessary the employer must meet the cost of basic lenses.

New starters or employees who change jobs should have an eye test before computer use begins. The frequency of further eye tests is at the discretion of the optometrist.

The employer is free to negotiate terms of business with a particular firm. The employer can also specify that all tests and spectacles can be provided from this one firm.



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