

# ESS14 DISPLAY SCREENS

Display screen equipment (DSE) used at work is regulated by the [Health and Safety \(Display Screen Equipment\) Regulations 1992](#), as amended by the [Health and Safety \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2002](#). The regulations require employers to minimise the risks in display screen equipment work by ensuring that workplaces, workstations and jobs are well designed.

## FAQs

### Which staff are typically categorised as display screen workers?

Typically support staff in office or administration environments are the most likely to use display screen equipment heavily enough to require adjustments and training to be made. Amongst teaching staff it is most likely to be senior staff who do not have so much active teaching time who will spend time at a workstation or laptop. All staff should, however, be assessed in order to ensure they are at least aware of the importance of safe use of DSE.

### What is a Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) and how can it be caused by Display Screen Use?

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are injuries or pain in the human musculoskeletal system, including the joints, ligaments, muscles, nerves, tendons, and structures that support limbs, neck and back. They are the leading contributor to disability worldwide, with low back pain being the single leading cause of disability globally. Between one in three and one in five people (including children) live with a musculoskeletal pain condition and the conditions are often caused by prolonged misuse of DSE.

MSDs are typically characterised by pain (often persistent) and limitations in mobility, dexterity and functional ability, reducing people's ability to work and participate in social roles with associated impacts on mental well-being, and at a broader level impacts on the prosperity of communities. The most common and disabling musculoskeletal conditions are osteoarthritis, back and neck pain, fractures associated with bone fragility, injuries and systemic inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Risk Factors include: poor posture, incorrectly set up equipment, lack of support for the back or wrist, using display screen equipment without taking suitable breaks and obesity.

Musculoskeletal conditions include conditions such as repetitive strain injury, lumbar or back pain that affect:

- joints
- bones, and associated fragility fractures
- muscles
- the spine, such as back and neck pain
- multiple body areas, such as regional and widespread pain disorders and inflammatory diseases

### Do we have to treat staff and pupils' safety in the same way?

There is no specific law setting out specific duties towards pupils, but you should treat them with the same degree of care as you always carry the general duty of care for them.

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Quick Guides: EL02 Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Regulations  
 EL07 England Display Screen Equipment  
 EL09 Display Screen Working Template  
 E- Training: Display Screen Equipment

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Action	Who	When	Further Guidance And Resources
Ensure pupils are aware of safety measures		EACH SESSION	<a href="#">HSE: Working with DSE</a> Subject teachers to recap safety measures where and when appropriate
Ensure that suitable safety notices are in place at workstations		TERMLY	<a href="#">EI 07: Screen Equipment Poster</a>
Ensure that staff, agency staff and volunteers are informed of all health and safety arrangements that affect them		TERMLY MINIMUM	<a href="#">Free NHS Eye Tests and Optical Vouchers</a>
Analyse workstations and assess risks and put in place a management plan to minimise risks		ANNUAL	<a href="#">HSE: Health and Safety Checklist for Classrooms 2011</a> Determine which workstations (staff and pupil) should be covered; Determine a schedule for carrying out assessments; Ensure that any identified
Ensure that a competent person knows the regulations and guidance			<a href="#">Working Safely With Display Screen Equipment</a> <a href="#">HANDSAM QUICK GUIDE: EL02 Display Screen Information</a> Note that any equipment used in school that is not caught by the display screen equipment regulations will be subject to: The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998; or The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 Ensure that the minimum requirements in the schedule to the regulation are covered
Appoint and train display screen assessors			<a href="#">HSE: Working with DSE</a>
Provide training for users/operators			<a href="#">HSE: Working with DSE</a>
Review the safety arrangements			<a href="#">HSE: DSE Workstation Checklist</a>
Keep a record of checks – incidents, training, maintenance and repair of facilities and equipment			
Make safety reports as required			Make safety reports as required
Determine an appropriate safety policy, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities			<a href="#">HANDSAM DISPLAY SCREEN POLICY</a>

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ESS18: Employers' Responsibilities  
ESS31: Legionella

**ALSO CONSIDER:**

ESS07: Boilers