Jewellery Policy

Introduction

Serious injuries have occurred as a result of personnel wearing jewellery at work. These injuries have been caused by contact with hazards such as electricity, moving equipment/machinery and hot surfaces. Other serious injuries have also occurred from less obvious events like catching rings while climbing ladders. Accident records show that jewellery can significantly contribute to the nature and extent of such injuries.

Objective

All industry Jewellery Policies have the objective of ‘No harm occurs to an individual, as a result of wearing jewellery while working’.

Jewellery Definition

For the purpose of this policy, jewellery refers to finger rings, earrings, studs, facial attachments such as chains/rings, bracelets (including medical bracelets), necklaces and watches.

Application

This guidance applies to operational locations and worksites on and offshore. ‘Workface’ refers to the location of the specific activity the individual is undertaking. The majority of industry jewellery policies do apply in accommodation and office locations where the work involves higher risk activities (such as electrical, catering/laundry, gardening, chemical use and maintenance). In such circumstances the jewellery is either banned (as for the rest of the installation) OR AT LEAST a risk assessment has been carried out for the wearing during the activity. The removal of jewellery whilst using Gym equipment has also been encouraged as ‘best practice’.

BEST PRACTICE in JEWELLERY POLICY

- Wearing of finger rings, earrings and facial jewellery is banned at the workface. (A few companies allow the wearing of a flat band wedding ring only if it cannot be removed, and that it is taped up - even if being worn under gloves).

- Wearing of bracelets and necklaces is banned at the workface. The only exception are the ‘open copper’ type medical bracelets.

- Where other jewellery such as body piercing is worn this is only permitted at the workface WHERE it is continuously and completely covered by clothing and PPE (such as coveralls and catering jackets).

- Watches should be removed when working with moving equipment/machinery. Watches should be completely covered by PPE (such as coverall cuffs).

The only jewellery that food handlers (including waiters and waitresses) are allowed to wear is a plain wedding ring, and a single pair of small (1cm-diameter) plain sleeper earrings. Rings or studs in other parts of the body, e.g. nose, lip, eyebrow, tongue are prohibited. Name badges should not have any loose parts, and decorative pins or broaches are also prohibited.

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