



**HSE**  
Health & Safety  
Executive

REDUCING  
RISKS



PROTECTING  
PEOPLE

*the*  
**Employment Medical  
Advisory Service**  
*and you*





This leaflet gives general information about The Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS) and its role in the Health and Safety Executive. EMAS is an integral part of HSE and is staffed by specialist occupational health professionals, both doctors and nurses. They are available to give expert advice on medical matters relating to work to a wide range of organisations and individuals. This includes employers, employees, trade unions, all Directorates in HSE, Local Authority environmental health officers and also other health care professionals.

Occupational health is a specialised part of medical and nursing work, where the emphasis is on preventing ill health, and promoting good health by:

- assessing the effect of work on the health of groups or individuals;
- advising on the effect of health on an individual's work capacity;
- advising on first-aid requirements at work; and
- supporting health promotion activities.

## The legal position

EMAS doctors (medical inspectors) and nurses (occupational health inspectors) can provide advice in relation to any work premises. They have the same legal powers as all other inspectors appointed under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (the HSW Act) for workplaces where HSE is the enforcing authority. As well as giving advice where





appropriate they have a responsibility to ensure that employers and others comply with the legal requirements of the Act and its associated Regulations including the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW).

## What EMAS does

EMAS staff provide an expert, independent and consistent service to a wide range of people and organisations by:

- investigating complaints and concerns of ill health raised by employers, employees, trade unions, members of the public and other health care professionals;
- investigating ill health reports received from employers under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR);
- helping other HSE inspectors and local authorities to make sure that people comply with health and safety law. This is an important part of its statutory duties;
- providing advice at the workplace to employers, employees and trade unions;
- providing expert advice to other doctors and nurses, in general health care and occupational health; and
- providing support for HSE's occupational health campaigns.





## What EMAS does not do

EMAS staff do not:

- provide medical treatment, but do advise family doctors and hospital staff on work-related health problems;
- provide an occupational health service for organisations. But we can give information on availability of local occupational health services;
- advise on nuisance problems arising from work activities: these are dealt with by local authority environmental health departments;
- provide rehabilitation for people with disabilities;
- conduct most statutory medical examinations: these are done by doctors appointed by EMAS for the specific regulations;
- assess or monitor first aid at work training organisations: this work is now done by HSE's First Aid Approvals and Monitoring Section and its approved contractor.

Enquiries about becoming an approved First Aid Training organisation should be addressed to:

**The First Aid Approvals and Monitoring Section  
Health and Safety Executive  
Quay House, Quay Street  
Manchester  
M3 3JB  
Tel: 0161 952 8322**





## How EMAS can help you

If you are an employer the HSW Act places the duty on you to secure the health and safety of your employees and others. Regulation 7 of MHSW requires you to select competent persons to help you in managing health and safety. EMAS can assist you to find someone to help with these duties but will not normally do the work on your behalf.

If you are an employee and think a health problem may be work-related you should tell your employer or the company's safety officer, nurse or doctor. You may also ask for help from your trade union or employee representative or family doctor. If you are unable to resolve the problem you can contact your local HSE office or Local Environmental Health Officer. EMAS may also be able to help you.

Members of the public who believe their health is being affected by nearby work activity may seek advice from EMAS.

## How you can contact EMAS

You can find the telephone number of your local office in directories under the heading, Health and Safety Executive. It is also a legal requirement for the EMAS address and telephone number to be available in all workplaces.





## Further information

If you wish to enquire about rehabilitation please contact the Employment Services Disability Services Team at your local Jobcentre.

HSE priced and free publications are available by mail order from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA.

Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

HSE priced publications are also available from good booksellers.

For other enquiries ring HSE's InfoLine

Tel: 08701 545500, or write to HSE's Information Centre, Broad Lane, Sheffield S3 7HQ.

HSE home page on the World Wide Web:

**<http://www.hse.gov.uk>**

This publication may be freely reproduced, except for advertising, endorsement or commercial purposes. The information is current at 03/00. Please acknowledge the source as HSE.

HSE5(rev1) 07/00 C200

Printed and published by the Health and Safety Executive

