

NGC TERMINOLOGY

Term	Definition
Absolute	A non-negotiable duty imposed by a regulation when it uses the term 'shall' or 'must' without the qualification of 'reasonably practicable'.
Accident	An undesired event or series of events causing (or with the potential to cause) injury, ill-health or damage.
Acute effect	An effect arising from exposure to a hazardous substance that happens immediately on exposure.
Approved Code of Practice	Approved Codes of Practice are published by the HSE to cover many regulations. Approved Codes of Practice although not law themselves do give guidance on how to comply with the law and as such have a special legal status, similar to the Highway Code.
As far as reasonably practicable	The degree of risk in a particular situation can be balanced against the cost, in terms of time, trouble, money and physical difficulty of taking measures to avoid the risk. If this cost is disproportionate to the risk it would be unreasonable to expect any employer to incur those costs to avoid the risk.
Balance of Probabilities	The standard of proof required by the courts in a civil law claim. The standard is met if there is a greater than 50% chance of the proposition being true.
Beyond Reasonable Doubt	The standard of proof required by a criminal law case.
Carcinogen	Chemicals that are known or suspected to cause cancer.
Chronic Effect	An effect arising from exposure to a hazardous substance which takes a long time to take effect. This may take months or even years for the effects to become evident.
Common Law	Unwritten law, originally based on the merging of various local customs and laws as a result of various royal judges who toured the country. Cannot be in conflict with Statute Law.
Competent Person	A Competent Person is defined by the HSE as somebody with the skill, knowledge, practical experience and training to enable them to assess the risks arising from the work activity.
Decibel (dB)	A logarithmic measurement commonly used to measure sound.
dB(A)	Sound measured using the "A weighting". Commonly used as the measurement of environmental or industrial noise across an 8-hour average day
DSE	Display Screen Equipment
Duty of Care	A legal precedent which states that "You must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you could reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour".
EH40	An HSE publication defining Occupational Exposure Limits in support of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations.
EHO	Environmental Health Officer. A local authority position responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation at a local level.
Ergonomics	The study and knowledge of human abilities and limitations to help design and build for comfort, efficiency, productivity and safety.
Frequency	Frequency, referring to sound, is the amount of complete waves every second that produce sound. For example: High pitched sounds, like the sound that whistles make, have a high frequency (lots of waves per second). And Low pitched sounds like the sound that a subwoofer makes have a low frequency (Not so many waves per second)
HAVS	Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
Hazard	An object, situation, or behaviour, that has the potential to cause harm in terms of injury, ill health, or damage to property or the environment.
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
Health Surveillance	Health Surveillance is about systematically watching out for early signs of

	work-related ill health in employees exposed to certain health risks, such as hazardous substances or excessive noise.
LEV	Local Exhaust Ventilation
LUX	Unit of measurement for illuminance.
MEL	Maximum Exposure Limit. Defined in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations and updated in EH40. The MEL sets the maximum exposure to which an employee can be exposed to a specified hazardous substance.
MSD	Musculoskeletal Disorder
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
Mutagen	A substance which may cause changes in human cells and may be handed down from generation to generation.
Near Miss	A near miss describes an incident which given a slight shift in time or distance might have resulted in injury, ill-health or damage. By reporting, investigating and acting on lessons learned from near misses, accidents should be prevented.
Negligence	Negligence is the omission to do something which a reasonable man, guided upon by those considerations which ordinarily regulate the conduct of human affairs, would do.
PTW	A permit to Work is a formal, written procedure used to control work activities which are identified as particularly hazardous and where special precautions are required to control the hazards. Primarily used for non-routine work activities.
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RCD	Residual Current Device
Regulation	Mandated by the government. Also a legal requirement (below the Health and Safety at Work etc Act) covering a specific area of health and safety legislation.
RIDDOR	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995
Risk	The chance or likelihood that somebody could be harmed by a hazard in the workplace, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be.
SSOW	A method of work designed to eliminate hazards, where possible and to ensure that the work is performed in a safe manner.
Safety Phrase	The standard phrases defined in EH40 and used in the classification, packaging, labeling and provision of information on hazardous substances.
SFARP	So Far As Reasonably Practicable.
Statute law	The formal, written law of a country or state.
TWA	Usually calculated as an 8 hour TWA. An average value of exposure over the course of an 8 hour shift.
Vicarious Liability	An employer can be found to be vicariously liable for negligent acts or omissions by their employee in the course of their employment whether or not such act or omission was specifically authorised by the employer.
Volenti non fit injuria	Latin for 'to a willing person, no injury is done.' This doctrine holds that a person who knowingly and willingly puts himself in a dangerous situation cannot sue for any resulting injuries.
Workplace Exposure Limit	A limit on the exposure to hazardous substances, established by the HSE in EH40. Defined as a Long-term exposure limit (over an 8 hour reference period) and a Short-term exposure limit (over a 15 minute reference period). generally measured in ppm or mg/m ³ .
WRULD	Work Related Upper Limb Disorder