Vision Screening

Vision Screening For DSE/VDU Users

OHS (Occupational Health Screening) Ltd
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Health & Safety Legislation

- Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005
- The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work, (General Application) Regulations 2007, Chapter 5 of Part 2

Regulation 73 of the above states....

“Every employer shall ensure ....

(a) that the provision of an appropriate eye and eyesight test, carried out by a competent person, is made known to and is made available to every employee
   (i) before commencing display screen work,
   (ii) at regular intervals thereafter, and
   (iii) if an employee experiences visual difficulties which may be due to display screen work,

(b) if results of test show that it is necessary, an ophthalmological examination is carried out on the employee"

(c) that where the results of a test show that it is necessary, and if normal corrective appliances cannot be used, the employee is provided with special corrective appliances appropriate to their work.
Benefits for Employer

- **Cost effective** as reduces the number of VDU users seeking a full eye examination
- **Time effective** as VDU users spend less time away from the desk
- **Maintain control** over VDU eye examinations
- **Quick and easy to use**: take 6-15 mins to complete
- **Promotes morale** amongst staff
- **Provides detailed records** of staff welfare
- **Promotes a commitment to staff welfare**
- **Helps the employer to become proactive** in sight health-care
- **Can regularly test all display screen users** for a relatively small cost
- **Confirm that any new prescriptions** improve performance and/or comfort
- **Support supplied** by OHS to answer any questions about vision screening and related ergonomic issues.
Benefits for Employees

- Tests conducted in a **natural environment** and can be performed at the VDU user’s workstation.
- Provides information about other **health problems** which may result from VDU use.
- Provides each employee with their own **personal copy of results** and recommendations. This enables the employee to understand many of the problems associated with display screen work.
- Tests are sensitive to small vision defects.
- Also can screen visual fields, colour vision and stereopsis.
- It can confirm that any glasses used either **improve performance** and/or comfort.
- Users feel that their eyes have been “**well tested**”.
- Raises issues that affect performance which may not have been previously identified.
- **Empowerment of the user** by providing detailed recommendations to them that reinforce the Health and Safety policy.
- Perception by the employees that the employer is providing an additional staff benefit.
Benefits for Optometrists

- Identify those that would benefit from a full eye examination and those that are likely to require spectacles

- Cost effective for the optometrist as the dispensing rate improves

- No evidence that VDUs damage eyes – less than 10% of users (age related) need spectacles specifically for VDU work

- Reduces the number of needless eye examinations
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this a way of saving money as you don’t have to pay for a full eye examination?
A: No. This system has been proven to be effective in providing optometric tests directly relevant to VDU use. All people failing the test will be referred on to an optometrist for a full eye examination. The system makes the whole process more effective and efficient, saving time away from the office and also identifying if a new prescription does not work well.

Q: Is it legal or does it negate the legal obligations of the company to pay for eye tests?
A: Yes it is legal. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work, (General Application) Regulations 2007, Chapter 5 of Part 2 make provision for vision screening to be provided.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does it work?
A: Yes – it was developed and tested by the Department of Optometry and Visual Science, City University, London and independently at Warwick University and the University of Aarlen, Germany. It is also approved for use in Australia by Prof S. Dain at the university of N. South Wales and by the principal optometrist for the RAF, M. Rossi. Within companies, the system has been accepted by employees and unions. Optometrists who work alongside companies report that the system is good at identifying people with Visual problems.

Q: Does it supply the same service that an Optometrist will supply?
A: No – It only looks at the particular features that are relevant to VDU use; some of which are beyond the Optometrist’s area of expertise. It does not look for eye disease nor does it measure the VDU user’s prescription. Should a user take regular medication or is experiencing any problems with their eyes, then they should attend for regular eye examinations as recommended by their optometrist. However, this system is sensitive enough to detect if the user is suffering from any problems with vision.

Q: Does it produce a qualified response?
A: Yes: If the results are less than expected, the VDU user will be referred for a full eye examination.
Conclusion

Two reasons to conduct eye screening;

1. Legal requirement for employees working with VDUs
2. Improves safety culture, staff morale and wellbeing.
Make a Difference to Your Staff’s Health
For Further Information

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