

Functional Skills English | Level 1 Reading | Risk Assessments in a Salon

Why do salons need a risk assessment?

Risk assessments are an important part of working in or owning a salon. In fact, they are a legal requirement in the United Kingdom. They are designed to help protect the staff, customers and the business. They do this by preventing accidents and injuries.

What is a risk assessment?

A risk assessment is about identifying potential hazards in the workplace, evaluating those risk and putting measures in place to stop or reduce them. To carry out a risk assessment, you need to follow these steps:

- Identify any hazards: This would be in the salon and the stockroom.
- Assess the risks: Think about who might be hurt and how. Also consider how likely the risks are to happen.
- Mitigate the risk: Identify measures to reduce the risks and put them in place.
- Complete the risk assessment form.
- Review regularly.

Examples of risks and measures to reduce them

Risk	Measure
Tripping Hazards, e.g. wires and customer bags	Ensure the workplace is kept tidy
Fumes from chemicals	Increase ventilation
Chemical burns on hands	Wear gloves and wash hands frequently
Slips	Ensure all slippages are cleaned up immediately
Cuts from sharp objects like scissors, razors and needles	Ensure all sharp objects are stored and disposed of correctly
Problems with new equipment	Ensure staff are trained on all new equipment

Remember, health and safety is everyone's responsibility.

Questions

1. What can be done to ensure trips and slips are kept to a minimum in the salon?

2. What is the purpose of a risk assessment?

3. What four text features are used to make the information easier to access?

4. Using a dictionary, what is meant by the following term?

Increase ventilation

5. Using a dictionary, what is meant by the following term?

Mitigate the risk

6. 'They are designed to help protect the staff, customers and the business.'

Why is the comma used in this quotation?