

Introduction



The Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Other Events has been drawn up by the Events Industry Forum in consultation with the UK events industry, including representatives from regional and national Government. This publication is designed to replace the original "Purple Guide" (HSG195) which was originally published by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) in consultation with the industry.

The guide aims to help those who organise music or similar events, so that the events can run safely. As an employer, the event organiser - whether an individual, collective or local authority - has a general duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees. They also have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that others - including volunteers and spectators - are not exposed to risks to their health and safety arising from the operation of the event.

This guide goes beyond the compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act and covers not only legislation and good practice for Health and Safety, but other legislation and good practice across the industry including the Licensing Act 2003, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and others. This new guide has been designed to sign-post event organisers and suppliers to the practices and issues that need to be considered when events are being planned. The contents are not designed to be prescriptive but simply seek to highlight legal criteria and non-legislative good practice. At all stages, those using this guidance are encouraged to undertake appropriate risk assessments and evaluations to assess the specific requirements for each event they are organising or involved with. This guidance is not the law and there may well be other equally effective ways of dealing with risk.

In some areas, the Guide signposts users to other sources of information that may be helpful. At time of publication all the links were checked and it is intended that these will be regularly updated and amended if necessary.

Due to the complexity of organising a wide range of events, the guide contains a large amount of detail, which may not always be relevant for some smaller events. Organisers running modest scale events may wish to also refer to the HSE's event safety web page www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/index.htm (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/index.htm>)

Volunteers running events do not generally have legal duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act. Please reference www.gov.uk/government/news/can-do-guidance-will-make-organising-volunteer-events-simpler (<http://www.gov.uk/government/news/can-do-guidance-will-make-organising-volunteer-events-simpler>) for further information and guidance.

As well as event organisers, others may find the guide useful, e.g. local authorities, health and safety enforcement officers, licensing officers, emergency services, land owners, contractors or sub contractors working at the event. The guide aims to provide standards and safety measures through which it is hoped to

encourage a consistency of approach while leaving scope for flexibility, taking into account the nature and size of the event.

As all events have their own unique requirements and legislation frequently changes, this publication should only be read as guidance and the contributors, editors and publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information therein.

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