

Press Release

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Don't slip up, warns Degafloor

Latest figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) make worrying reading for British employers after it reported that slips, trips and falls account for more than 33% of all major workplace injuries.

The figures also reveal slips and trips, often the butt of tea room jokes, cost employers more than £512million per year, with more than 50% of all accidents reported being to members of the public.

According to Degafloor, one of the UK's leading suppliers of resin flooring systems for industrial and commercial use, the vast majority of those accidents can be attributed to three main factors, namely: low slip resistance (often the result of incorrect floor finish choice), contamination and poor maintenance.

Degafloor Commercial Director James Wright suggests that potential customers should consider a number of key issues when deciding which type of flooring to install. He said: "It's vital the floor be designed to be 'fit for purpose' based on the extremes of typical use. Far too many floors offer inadequate slip resistance and that is a major cause of injury.

"It is essential that customers look to flooring specifiers to fully assess their requirements and recommend solutions based on a thorough understanding of how a floor will be used. Any recommendation should be supported by relevant test data to demonstrate that each flooring type is able to deliver acceptable levels of slip resistance for the work activity that will take place on it. Degafloor has a policy of providing independent test result data, against the BS7976 standard, whilst many competitors publish vague data, such as slip resistance >40, which neither defines whether this is under wet or dry conditions, nor does it provide any independent validity.

"Many specifiers are now doing a good job of choosing the correct floor finish type, poor installation, ineffective cleaning and lack of a holistic approach to managing risk often result in disappointing real life performance. Therefore, it is essential that customers look to appoint recognised installers, preferably members of a relevant trade association, tasked to deliver according to a written specification (most manufacturers will happily provide guidance in this area).

"Floor contamination (oils, water, powders etc) is the major source of slip related accidents, so the cleaning regime adopted by the customer is paramount to ensuring the risk of slipping is minimised, especially as high performance 'safety' flooring will require an increased surface texture that can only

be maintained by effective cleaning. It never fails to amaze me when I visit customers who have spent a considerable amount of money on a new floor, to find the cleaning regime is still a mop and bucket!

“Finally, in order to minimise risk, customers must also consider the environment in which the floor will be used. Consideration of items such as: staff training on spill prevention and rectification, footwear policy (i.e. no high heels in certain areas and use of safety shoes where appropriate), general housekeeping rules and lighting levels will all help to minimise risk and make the workplace safer.”

Degafloor has a strong reputation for putting safety first. Many customers have visited our facility to complete extensive testing of real life scenarios to ensure that the chosen Degafloor product will be ‘fit for purpose’. Degafloor’s technical team also focuses on developing bespoke solutions to ensure that the right balance of performance is delivered when the floor is installed.

James Wright added: “Finding your way through the maze of flooring products can be extremely confusing. At Degafloor we listen to the individual requirements of our customers (and often visit site to assess current levels of slip resistance from existing floor finishes) and give them the full facts and alternatives. We then recommend a solution that best meets their needs, based on our extensive experience and always backed up with relevant independent test data.”

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Notes to editors:

Degafloor Ltd is a leading supplier of MMA based resin flooring systems to a wide range of industrial and commercial environments. Based in Maxey in Cambridgeshire, Degafloor Ltd was established in 2002, although the brand has been operational since 1996. For more information on Degafloor Ltd, please visit www.degafloor.com or contact us on +44 (0) 1778 342545.