

Injury Fact Sheet

Falls to Same Level in Supermarkets

(slips, trips and falls)



Over 600 supermarket workers were seriously injured from falls to the same level in the years 2000-2004 resulting in nearly 48,000 days off work.



These fall to same elevation injuries were so serious workers had to take time off work to recover, or in some cases were permanently disabled. Serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$.60 per hour per employee paid by supermarket employers in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your "experience rating" could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$.75 per hour per employee.

Stated in another way, if you had 10 full-time employees and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$12,000 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$3,000 more or \$15,000 in premiums in 2006.

Causes or sources of fall injuries

Supermarket workers injure themselves from falls to the same level and to the work surface (slips, trips, and falls). Over a quarter of these injuries were slips due to water or other liquid on the floor. Other common hazards resulting in falls were created by boxes/ cartons in the walking path and uneven walking surfaces.



Ways to prevent fall injuries

- Clean up spills immediately.
- Make sure floors are clean and dry.
- Have employees wear slip resistant shoes
- Remove obstructions from traffic paths.
- Keep workstations clear of obstacles.
- Make sure flooring materials are level and secure
- Store goods safely.
- Provide adequate lighting for all work areas

Like many retail businesses, the grocery industry generally relies on high-volume, low-profit margin sales. The effective management of preventable losses, such as workplace injuries, can therefore have a significant impact on productivity and profitability.

For more information on slips, trips, and falls, go to:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/workers.htm>