

Viabes Community Association- Health and Safety Policy

Display Equipment Users – Appendix F

These regulations apply to those using DSE for most of the day rather than for infrequent users. However, Viabes Community Association recognises the importance of ensuring that all its users are supported in minimising any strain due to the use of DSE.

Who is a display screen user?

In some cases it will be clear that the use of DSE is more or less continuous on most days and the individuals concerned should be regarded as users. Where use is less continuous, ‘user’ status would apply if most or all of the following criteria are met.

- The individual depends on the use of display screen equipment to do the job, as alternative means are not readily available for achieving the same results
- The individual needs significant training and/or particular skills in the use of display screen equipment to do the job
- The individual normally uses the display screen equipment for continuous spells of an hour or more
- The individual uses display screen equipment in this way more or less daily
- Fast transfer of information between the user and display screen equipment is an important requirement of the job
- The performance requirements of the system demands high levels of attention and concentration by the user

Eye testing and spectacle costs

There is no reliable evidence that work with a display screen causes any permanent damage to the eyes or eyesight, but it may make the user with pre-existing vision defects more aware of them. This may give rise to visual fatigue and headaches. It is worth noting that these symptoms can also be due to poor lighting, incorrect posture, poor workstation layout, design or maintenance of hardware.

Worker’s entitlements

Eye Test

Any worker covered by the regulations is entitled to request an eye and eyesight test which will be paid for by the employer. Workers should inform their line manager, who will provide them with the opportunity to go to an optician of the worker’s choice.

A worker can request a test if he/she:

- Is already a user for a significant part of his/her work
- Is about to start using display screen equipment for a significant part of his/her work
- Is experiencing visual difficulties which may reasonably be considered to be related to display screen work
- OR, if it is recommended by an optician at the time of an eye examination that the worker should have eye tests at regular intervals.

Spectacles (Glasses)

If, as a result of the eye tests, a worker requires spectacles solely for use with display screen equipment, he/she is entitled to reimbursement of the cost of a basic pair. If the worker wishes to choose more costly spectacles, the employer is not obliged to pay the full cost of these. In this event, the employee will only be reimbursed the basic cost of the spectacles.

If, however, the worker requires glasses for normal use (e.g. reading, distance vision) but which may also include display screen equipment, the employer is not required to make reimbursements beyond the cost of the eyesight test.

Who pays the optician?

The worker pays the optician and then obtains reimbursement, attaching the receipts and any other reports to form DSE1, and give these to his/her line manager who will arrange reimbursement.