

Alcohol and Drugs Policy

Policy 2021

1. Introduction

This company is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive working environment for all employees, contractors, customers and visitors involved in its operation. This policy sets out the company's aims in reducing and managing alcohol and drug problems in the workplace. Alcohol and drug problems are prevalent in society and are associated with a wide variety of costs for both employers and employees. These costs include ill-health sickness absence, reduced work performance and accidents. The consumption of alcohol and drugs has implications for health and safety at work since these substances impair co-ordination, judgement and decision making as such this is a policy matter.

2. Policy Aims and Objectives

Aim

To clearly state the company's position on alcohol and drugs within the workplace.

Objectives

- To ensure the company complies with appropriate legislation
- To minimise the risks associated with alcohol and drugs in the workplace
- To have clear rules regarding alcohol and drugs in the workplace
- To provide employees with an education programme on the adverse health effects of alcohol and drugs
- To encourage the early identification of employees who may be experiencing alcohol or drug problems
- To provide support for employees experiencing alcohol and drug problems
- To provide training and support to line managers to ensure they are equipped to support employees experiencing problems.

3. Definitions

Alcohol problem - An alcohol problem is defined as any drinking, either intermittent or continual which interferes with a person's health and or social functioning and or work capability or conduct.

Drugs - Any drug, whether illegal, prescribed or over the counter or solvents such as glue, butane, etc. In the case of prescribed and over the counter drugs, their possession and use by the employee is acknowledged as legitimate.

Drug problem - The use of illegal drugs, the deliberate use of prescribed or over the counter drugs (when not for a medical condition) and the use of solvents, either intermittent or continual which interferes with a person's health and/or social functioning and or work capability or conduct.

4. Legal

4.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers to protect the health, safety and welfare of their employees and others who may be affected by their activities, as far as is reasonably practicable.

4.2 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires employers to carry out a risk assessment to identify hazards in the workplace and put measures in place to minimise these risks.

4.3 The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) is the main legislation covering drugs and categorises them as classes A, B and C. These drugs are called controlled substances and class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful under this act. It is illegal for anyone, whether at work or not to produce, supply or be in possession of illegal drugs. Employers may be liable if they knowingly allow dispensing, manufacturing, possession, using or selling on their premises.

5. Policy Rules

5.1 The company requires all employees to report for duty free from the effects of alcohol and drugs. It is not acceptable to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at work.

5.2 Employees found in possession of illegal drugs or using illegal drugs whilst at work will normally be reported to the police.

5.3 No one must drink alcohol or use drugs at this workplace, except:

- for legitimate medical reasons: You must notify your supervisor if prescribed medication is likely to affect your behaviour and therefore work health and safety. Your supervisor may assign you other duties while you are taking the medication
- at workplace-based social events: This is dealt with in more detail under Social events in this policy

6. Social events

Responsible social events can be held at the place of work or any other place where work events are organised (including official company entertaining, birthday celebrations, special occasions, Christmas parties etc).

To ensure everyone remains safe:

- everyone is expected to act responsibly.

- office employees must ensure, if returning to their workplace, that personal tolerances have not been exceeded.
- site supervisors and employees must ensure that suitable alternative arrangements are in place to provide sufficient site supervision and or services in their absence as a return to the workplace under the influence of alcohol or drugs on the day of a planned social event is strictly prohibited.
- alternative transport arrangements must be considered, and public transport should be used where appropriate.
- If there is any doubt relating to responsible and acceptable behaviour whilst attending a workplace social function, then this should be confirmed with the department director prior to attending the event.

7 Education

7.1 The company is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles to employees via the Healthy Working Lives programme. Alcohol and drug issues will be incorporated into the staff health programme and employees will be provided with information on the current health guidance in relation to safe and sensible drinking and the risks associated with using drugs. This information will be disseminated by means of written material, email communication and e-learning workshops run by health specialists from the alcohol and drugs field.

7.2 Training will be provided for managers to outline their responsibilities for enforcing this policy and additional support can be sought from the Company Managing Director. New managers will be made aware of their responsibilities in relation to this policy via the company induction programme.

7.3 This policy will be sent to all staff on launch and will thereafter be held on the Company IT Systems. New staff will be made aware of this policy at induction and will be sent a copy with their contract of employment.

8. Implementation of the Policy

8.1 Identification of a problem

Alcohol and drug problems may become apparent through a number of means, for example the following (particularly in combination) may result in a problem being suspected:

- Persistent short-term absence
- Unauthorised absence
- Poor time keeping
- Reduced work performance
- Poor working relationships
- Deterioration in appearance

However, it must be remembered that these factors can have a number of other causes. Employees experiencing alcohol or drug problems may first become apparent to their

colleagues. If a member of staff suspects an alcohol or drug problem in a colleague, they should either:

- Encourage the person to seek help from support agencies: www.alcoholfocus-scotland.org.uk/local-services
- Report the matter to a manager (particularly if the person is involved in a safety critical job).

9 Misconduct

This policy is primarily concerned with ongoing alcohol and drugs problems which are classed as capability issues, i.e. where the problem impacts on the person's ability to do their job. One-off cases where the rules of this policy are breached, such as someone reporting for work clearly under the influence of alcohol or drugs or suffering from the effects of alcohol will be classed as a conduct issue and will be dealt with under the normal disciplinary procedures. Very serious incidents such as violence at work whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs or dealing illegal drugs at work will be deemed serious misconduct justifying summary dismissal. In some instances of misconduct where the employee admits to having an alcohol or drug problem, disciplinary proceedings may be held in abeyance subject to successful outcome of treatment. In instances of serious misconduct where the employee subsequently admits to having an alcohol or drug problem, the support route and the disciplinary route may be implemented in tandem.

9.1 Voluntary Referral for Support

Employees who suspect or know they have a drug or alcohol problem are encouraged to seek support at an early stage. Employees may or may not wish to inform their line manager in such instances.

9.2 Referral by Management

Employees suspected of having an alcohol or drug problem will be offered support by their manager. Where the problem has become apparent through deterioration in work performance, the employee will have to demonstrate satisfactory completion of a programme of support and an improvement in work performance or disciplinary action will be taken. Employees will be given the opportunity of attending treatment within work time. Alternatively, if employees require being absent from duty normal sick pay arrangements will apply.

9.3 Confidentiality

The company aims to ensure that the confidentiality of all employees experiencing alcohol or drug problems is maintained by appropriate people, for example, officers of the Company having responsibility for such matters. Information regarding individual cases will not be divulged to third parties unless the safety of the person concerned, or others would be compromised by not doing so.

9.4 Testing

The company reserve the right to undertake mandatory random drug and alcohol testing on any of its operational premises.

9.5 Equal Opportunities

This policy will apply equally to all staff regardless of grade, experience, or role within the company.

9.6 Relapse

The company acknowledges that relapse is common with alcohol and drug problems. Relapses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the needs of the department affected and the business needs of the organisation. Employees should be aware that the disciplinary route might be followed after subsequent relapses.

9.7 Return to Work

Following treatment, the company will endeavour to ensure the employee returns to their existing job. If the employee is unable to fulfil those duties the company will consider alternative duties. Promotional prospects will be unaffected following treatment.

10. Monitoring and Review

10.1 This policy will take effect from 1st July 2020.

10.2 The Health and Safety Committee is responsible for monitoring how this policy works in practice. The Managing Director and The Company Health and Safety manager will compile an annual report on the implementation of the policy to be presented to this committee. The report will include compliance levels, awareness amongst staff and implementation by managers.

10.3 If employees have concerns about this policy, they can be raised with the Managing Director.

10.4 This policy will be reviewed annually.

11. Acknowledgement

I confirm that I have read and understood this policy

Signed:



Date: 20 - 12 - 20

Alcohol and Drugs

Policy Statement 2021

Introduction

The Company, as an employer mindful of the welfare of its entire staff, is concerned that the use of alcohol and or drugs by its employees should not impair their health and social life. Moreover, to the extent that misuse of alcohol and or drugs may have detrimental effect on an employee's attendance and work performance, the interests of the Company and its other employees are invoked.

The Company has a legal duty to protect the health and safety of our employees and customers, and we always expect all employees to be able to fulfil their work responsibilities and safely carry out their roles and duties.

The Company regards an individual's dependency on either alcohol or drugs as an illness. The same provisions and allowance for treatment will be made as for other illnesses.

The Company has considered it appropriate to draw up an alcohol and drug policy and this has been done in consultation with our Occupational Health and Safety support service. This statement and policy have the full support of the Board of Directors of Martin Grant Homes Limited.

For the purpose of the policy, alcohol dependence is defined as:

"The habitual drinking of intoxicating liquor by an employee, whereby the employee's ability to perform his or her duties is impaired or his or her attendance at work is interfered with, or he or she endangers the safety of others".

And drug dependence is defined as:

"The habitual taking of drugs by an employee other than drugs prescribed as medication, whereby the employee's ability to perform his or her duties is impaired, or his or her attendance at work is interfered with, or he or she endangers the safety of others".

The policy is intended to apply to all staff of the Company.

The Company will assist any member of staff who is dependent on alcohol or drugs to find out about and assess his or her problem and to obtain confidential counselling. Staff who suspect or know that a colleague has an alcohol or drug problem may wish to encourage him or her to seek help.

This policy does not form part of your contract of employment and we reserve the right to amend this policy at any time.

C Hamilton

Signed:

Date: 1st July 2021

Chris Hamilton: Managing Director

