Law and the General Practitioner

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974: enforcement

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The Health and Safety at Work Act covers "every person at work," and its inspectors therefore have the right to inspect any premises related to the work. The Health and Safety Executive has defined the country in a wide area, and each has its own areas of inspection. One group of inspectors is responsible for the "health services," which include general practice premises.

Power of the inspectors

Every inspector has a warrant of appointment that states his name, position, and the authority which appointed him. An inspector normally has the right to enter any premises to inspect them. He may not enter a premises without the occupier's consent, or if there is no occupier, he may enter only after a warrant has been obtained.

Inspectors are generally given notice of their visit, and they are required to make an inspection. However, unless there is a "mystery" in a complaint or after an inspection, they may enter the premises without notice. Inspectors are also required to give notice of their visit to the premises, and they may not enter without the occupier's consent. If an inspector is refused entry, he may be carried away to that premises.

The inspector may then carry out an inspection of the premises, and he may enter the premises and inspect the premises. The inspector may also enter the premises and inspect any other premises that are connected with the premises.

Procedural standards must be required. If there are no premises used for the purposes of the Act, the inspector must be able to make a reasonable and proportionate inspection of the premises. The inspector may also make a reasonable and proportionate inspection of the premises, as long as he is able to make a reasonable and proportionate inspection of the premises.