

Code of Practice (COP) Briefing Paper

Did you know?

The fine for not having up-to-date

1. **Statutory certificates**
2. **COSHH Risk Assessments**
3. **Legionella Risk Assessment**

Can be up-to an **unlimited fine and up to two years imprisonment**

The maximum penalties under Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008 for offences committed against Health and Safety regulations can be an unlimited fine and up to two years imprisonment.

The above are the three main failures within the ukactive COP – can you afford not to be compliant?

What the Code is?

ukactive's COP defines the minimum performance criteria for health and fitness clubs and leisure centres, to ensure customers are provided with a safe environment in which to exercise and engage in leisure activities.

By complying with the standards of the COP you are raising the level of operation throughout all ukactive member facilities and creating a standard. This is symbol of quality that visitors and those exercising will look for before joining and or visiting to a fitness club or leisure centre.

Compliance with the COP communicates your commitment to standards, quality and customer welfare. It is an important statement to Government and other regulatory bodies that fitness and activity providers are part of a professional sector which takes its operation and duty of care seriously.

The COP ensures that your facility is aligned with the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007 which stipulates that facilities are liable for incidents if there is found to be a failure in their health and safety arrangements and they had failed to take advice from a competent person which may include an independent third party assessment of their operating procedures.

What the Code covers?

The ukactive COP is designed to ensure that health and fitness operators maintain a basic level of practice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their customers.

The COP does not act as a substitute for any existing legislation. Organisations will be externally audited by an established awarding body to become ukactive COP compliant. ukactive will assist in providing clear interpretations of the standards of the COP. Code compliant members of ukactive agree to promote standards, quality and customer welfare throughout the sector and achieve the following. COP compliant members must ensure:

For further information contact ukactive on **020 7400 8630** or email **cop@ukactive.org.uk**

Health and safety

1. That minimum legal requirements regarding health and safety are maintained.

Staff training

2. Staff instructing exercise or supervising swimming pools have achieved a recognised qualification.

Customer care

3. That on joining the facility, customers are aware of the standard terms and conditions that apply to their membership.

4. That any written contracts for members are in accordance with fair trading laws.

5. That all facility users are offered an exercise induction .

6. That complaints by customers are acknowledged and that communication is maintained until the matter is resolved.

7. A commitment to the Equality Act 2010.

Key Benefits – why should I go through this?

The COP shows that your facility is up to legal standards.

If you have an accident, the COP shows that you had policies in place, which will be the first thing that an investigator will ask for.

This is the Industry Standard, with over 1200 facilities compliant.

The Code ensures that your facility is aligned recognises the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007.

Case Study - Legionella

Background

- In an area where Places for People Leisure (PFP) operate a Leisure Centre traces of Legionella bacteria were found.
- As a precaution the local authority asked the Leisure Centre to voluntarily close while checks were completed.
- This was agreed.
- No evidence was found that the Leisure Centre had in any way been associated with a legionella outbreak.

Outcome

As the Centre was closed for around 6 weeks there was obviously a loss of income.

Because the Centre operated robust procedures complying with L8, the HSE's Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) for "Legionnaires' disease and the control of legionella bacteria in water systems", a full loss of income settlement was made by the insurers.

Technically there was no reason why the Centre should have closed.

ukactive COP Comment: "The COP audit means PFP Leisure could be 100% confident its centres were running procedures conforming to L8. If not, this closure would have cost £109,000 which they would have been unable to reclaim from their insurers."

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ukactive Code of Practice

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UK
active

More people
More active
More often

Feedback

"This process showed me that we were not hitting targets which my staff told me they were doing" - independent operator

"The COP provided us with the peace of mind that we are working to the highest standards for both the facilities and in expertise. Becoming COP compliant also had a positive impact on our retention rates as well as providing a key point of difference between us and our competitors in the local area" - multi-site operator

There are over 1200 facilities in the UK already COP compliant, can you afford not to be compliant. For further details please contact a member of the ukactive team on 0207 400 8630.

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