

GUIDANCE NOTES – GRITTING					
Version Number	1	Date Created	12/01/17	Replaces	Jan 2013

Given the flow of people in/out of our sites, Midcounties are required to minimise all foreseeable risks as far as is reasonably practicable. As a business, we would be criticised more for doing nothing, rather than for doing something. In icy/cold weather it is foreseeable that ice would form and would represent a risk. Gritting is therefore a very practical method of minimising this risk. The starting point for sites, however, should be to carry out and document a risk assessment.

Risk Assessments are intended to consider foreseeable causes of accidents and it is reasonably foreseeable that Midcounties would have more slips if they did not grit than if they did. However, if you feel that gritting itself may make the area more dangerous (the risk of slipping can become worse if snow is cleared as the area can become an invisible sheet of ice) then gritting should not be carried out. By leaving the snow, the area could be less slippery and customers would be more aware of the visible risk.

A risk assessment should include:

1. What conditions prompt consideration of whether gritting should occur (freezing or below temperatures, complaint, ice seen etc.)?
2. A method for gritting - high risk areas first including high footfall areas (entrances) and places where ice usually forms
3. A log showing when the gritting has been undertaken

From an insurance perspective, if a claim were to be forthcoming in relation to a slip on ice, it is far easier to defend the claim by showing that a system of inspection and gritting was in place than if nothing had been done. We have had similar claims in the past where the insured were aware of a problem but took no action and these claims had to be settled, without any possible avenue for defending the claims.

If Midcounties lease a car park, for example, then you should look at the terms of the lease to see who is responsible for the area and gritting.

If customers use a nearby council car park, then any claim or complaints should be redirected to the council (or owner).

The Health and Safety Team are also available to offer support and guidance to sites who need it.

Site Name:	
Site Number:	
Date:	

Risk Rating
High =16-25, Medium = 9-15, Low = 1-8

Likelihood	X	Severity
Very Unlikely	1	Minor injury, No time off
Unlikely	2	Injury and part shift off
Likely	3	Injury and up to seven days off
Very Likely	4	RIDDOR/Long term absence
Certain	5	Fatality

Hazard	Who's at Risk?	Current Control Measures <i>The control measures below are the minimum required to achieve the level of risk that has been assessed.</i>	Risk Factor			If applicable - detail any site specific action required to maintain / reduce risk <i>Please write N/A if no additional site specific action is required to maintain / reduce risk</i>	Risk Factor after any site specific actions			Completed - Signature & date
			Severity	Likelihood	Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Risk	
GRITTING - ACCUMULATION OF SNOW / ICE / SLUSH / FREEZING TEMPERATURES / POSING SLIP HAZARD AROUND EXTERNAL AREAS	CUSTOMERS / COLLEAGUES / VISITORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DETERMINE WHAT AREAS WE ARE LIABLE FOR UNDER TERMS OF LEASE. - DETERMINE WHAT AREAS SITE COLLEAGUES CAN REASONABLY GRIT TO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE RISK OF SLIPPING DUE TO SNOW / ICE - THIS SHOULD INCLUDE ENTRANCE AND DELIVERY POINTS AND ANY KEY ACCESS PATHS TO THE SITE FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE OR CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO GRIT. Please Note - IT IS NOT NORMALLY REASONABLE TO EXPECT ALL CAR PARK AREAS TO BE CLEARED - ALTHOUGH SUCH DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE AT A LOCAL LEVEL DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS - ENSURE COLLEAGUES HAVE CORRECT EQUIPMENT FOR THE TASK - ENSURE COLLEAGUES WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHING FOR THE TASK - ENSURE COLLEAGUES INVOLVED IN THE TASK FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED - ENSURE REGULAR CHECKS ARE MADE THROUGHOUT PERIODS OF EXTREME WEATHER AND RECORD THESE ON THE "GRITTING LOG" 	2	2	4					

