

**National Association for Safety and Health in Care Services.
Safety Information Portal (SIP).
Briefing Note.**

Winter Gritting/Snow Clearing - What do I have to do?

Background.

There has been some confusion in recent times about what is the correct action to be taken when routes/paths within an organisation's site become affected by snow and ice. These guidelines aim to provide what action to take.

Legal considerations.

- The **Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992** requires that floors and traffic routes are to be kept in a safe condition for employees. The **Approved Code of Practice (ACOP)** to these regulations makes specific reference to minimising the risk from snow and ice and there is a recommendation regarding snow clearing and gritting.
- The **Occupiers' Liability Act 1957** extends a 'common duty of care' to all visitors that they will be reasonably safe in using the premises for which they are invited or permitted by the occupier to be on the premises.

Due to the above it is felt an established system for controlling the hazards of snow and ice should be introduced across sites. The guidance below demonstrates reasonable lengths in managing the hazards of snow and ice within the grounds of a site.

Managing the risk.

When routes/paths are affected by snow/ice the following actions are recommended: -

1. **Inform staff and public** (where possible) prior to snow/ice of which routes/paths will be gritted/cleared of snow and instruct them they must keep to these routes/paths. Staff can be informed through the usual communication channels.
2. **Restrict access onto the site** to a minimum number of designated routes/paths appropriate to the size of the site and concentrate gritting/snow clearing to these areas not forgetting steps and disabled ramps. The gritting/snow clearing **MUST** stop at the boundary of the property under your control (unless a risk assessment concludes otherwise).
3. **Warning signs should be erected** at the entrances to these designated routes/paths (see later in this document a sign that could be used)
4. **A written record should be made** of which paths are gritted/snow cleared and at what time this took place (see later in this document a check sheet that could be used). In freezing conditions/snow fall routes/paths will need to be gritted/cleared at regular intervals to ensure ice does not reform.
5. **Ensure the activity of gritting/snow clearing is risk assessed** and the individuals involved understand and follow the control measures in place.
6. **Suitable doormats** should be available within entrances to buildings to enable water and slush to be removed from shoes to prevent individuals slipping on wet floors.

7. **In the event of staff/service users/public slipping** within the grounds a record must be made in the site accident/incident form and entered on the clinical governance database.
The record should be kept for 3 years.



Example Warning notice

This surface has recently been gritted but may still be slippery in places. Please proceed with caution.

Further Information

A selection may be found at the following:-

Clearing snow and ice from pavements

<https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

Clearing snow and ice from pavements outside your premises

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/logistics/slips-trips-bad-weather.htm>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Clear-Snow-and-Ice-from-Pavements-and-Public-Spaces>

Slips and Trips Frequently asked questions.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/faq.htm>

This information sheet was reviewed & agreed by the National Executive in January 2019. Changes may have occurred since then so please double check with our sources.

See below for an example winter gritting/snow clearing record.



Insert name of premises

Winter gritting/snow clearing weekly record sheet

Person(s) undertaking the task:

Sign gritting completed:

Date WC:	Mon am + pm		Tue am + pm		Wed am + pm		Thurs am + pm		Fri am + pm		Sat am + pm		Sun am + pm	
At what time did gritting/snow clearing take place? If left blank no gritting took place.														
Describe the weather conditions/approx. temp.														
Which routes/paths were gritted/cleared of snow?														
Warning ice/snow signs displayed at entrances to the gritted/snow cleared routes/paths?	Yes/No		Yes/No		Yes/No		Yes/No		Yes/No		Yes/No		Yes/No	

Insert plan or draw the grounds of the premises and indicate the routes/paths gritted/snow cleared