

PS004 INTRODUCTION

This SAFE WORKING PRACTICE (SWP) on **WALKING ON ICE** forms part of the National Ice Centre Safety Manual.

Employees should refer to this guidance and direct any queries they have to their department manager.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?

- Collisions with skaters
- Inexperienced skaters
- Slips, trips and falls
- Effects of cold atmosphere
- Low lighting levels (disco session)
- Carrying items

WHY THE CONCERN?

Walking on the ice is sometimes necessary in order to ensure the skating rules implemented by the NIC are abided by or to gain access to an injured person. It is also on the ice in which the majority of accidents happen. Inexperienced skaters pose a danger to the safety of those walking on the ice, due to lack of grip by both parties.

WHAT PRACTICAL CONTROL MEASURE CAN BE TAKEN?

- Only trained/competent personnel to walk on the ice.
- Ensure staff are wearing NIC supplied safety shoes
- Only stewards/coaching staff should help restrict skaters entering area and support colleagues on ice.
- The DJ should help direct the skaters in the opposite direction (if required and on a disco session)
- Tape off relevant area if the task will take more than a few minutes.
- No items should be carried by hand or attached to the person, if not necessary.
- Staff should be trained in a correct way to walk on the ice and a correct way to fall over, if pulled.
- The number of staff who walk on the ice should be limited wherever possible.

WALKING ON ICE SAFE WORKING PRACTICE

- Ensure lighting levels are adequate. Use emergency light setting and/or perimeter lighting where possible

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS / RESPONSIBILITIES

- Full and effective induction and training programme for new staff and on going updated training for existing staff.
- Keeping updated records of staff training and signing RA/SWP documents.
- Monitor staff; if staff avoid or are uncomfortable with the task, provide training opportunity to practice skill and gain confidence.
- Details of visual checks & vigilance required.
- Assessment of ice quality.

TRAINING

- Information and understanding of risk assessments for walking on the ice (use of crampons if required), and correct safe working practices.
- Understanding of the risk assessments for general skating.

COSHH

N/A

MANUAL HANDLING

Helping customers up off the ice

WORK EQUIPMENT

- Appropriate PPE provided

PPE

- Warm coat (2 in 1 jacket) (if appropriate)
- Safety shoes

FURTHER INFORMATION

N/A

REVIEW OF SAFE WORKING PRACTICE (SWP)

This safe working practice and its corresponding risk assessment will be reviewed when the circumstances to which it relates change. While every attempt

WALKING ON ICE SAFE WORKING PRACTICE

will be made to review this document at suitable intervals, it is the duty of all NIC employees to inform their department manager or a member of the health and safety committee when the contents of this SWP/RA become ineffectual or outdated.