

Risk Assessment New & Expectant Mothers

The people that might be harmed: BBC Studioworks employees, contractors, public, artists

Hazard	Control
<p>Shocks, vibration or movement:</p> <p>Regular exposure (e.g. driving or riding in off-road vehicles, excessive movement) may increase the risk of miscarriage. No particular risk to breastfeeding workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid work likely to involve uncomfortable whole body vibration, especially at low frequencies or where the abdomen is exposed to shocks or jolts
<p>Manual handling</p> <p>Hormonal changes in pregnancy can affect the ligaments increasing susceptibility to injury. Postural problems may increase as the pregnancy progresses. Possible risks for those who have recently given birth – e.g. likely to be a temporary limitation on lifting and handling capability after a caesarean section. No particular risk to breastfeeding workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review manual handling assessments to take into account postural problems, size changes, possible backache. It may be necessary to alter the nature of the task undertaken to reduce the risk of injury. It may be necessary to reduce the amount of manual handling or use aids to reduce the risks.
<p>Ionising Radiation</p> <p>Significant exposure can harm the foetus (either through external exposure or by breathing in/ingesting radioactive contamination), and there are limits on the d deemed to be acceptable for expectant moth Nursing mothers who work with radioactive liquids or dusts can cause exposure of the child, particularly through contamination of the mother’s skin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid work which involves radioactive materials where possible. Work procedures must be designed to keep exposure below the statutory dose limit for pregnant women. Nursing mothers should not work where the risk of contamination is high.

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<p>Electromagnetic Fields and Waves (e.g. Radio frequency)</p> <p>Extreme over-exposure to electromagnetic fields & Waves could cause harm by raising body temperature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company already comply with Regulations on exposure limits – so shouldn't be an increased risk.
<p>Extremes of Heat</p> <p>Pregnant women tolerate heat less well and may faint more readily or be liable to heat stress. Breastfeeding can be impaired by heat dehydration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit exposure to extremes of heat. Access to and use of rest facilities and refreshments will help.
<p>Posture and Movement, Mental and Physical Fatigue</p> <p>Fatigue from standing and other physical work has been associated with miscarriage, premature birth and low birth weight. Excessive physical or mental pressure may cause stress and can give rise to anxiety and raised blood pressure. Problems working at heights due to changes in posture and balance. Difficulties in working in tightly fitting work spaces or with jobs requiring dexterity, agility, coordination, speed of movement, reach and balance. Associated increased risk of accidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control hours, volume and pacing of work. Adjust how work is organised. Ensure seating is available where appropriate, and take longer or more frequent rest breaks to avoid or reduce fatigue. Adjusting workstations or work procedure where this will minimise postural problem and risk of accidents.
<p>Biological Agents e.g. HIV, Rubella, TB, Chickenpox, typhoid</p> <p>Many biological agents can affect the unborn child if the mother is infected during pregnancy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review COSHH Assessments. Eliminate Exposure.
<p>Proximity to mammals who have recently given birth</p> <p>Certain biological agents can harm the foetus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant women will not enter areas where Mammals have recently given birth. Full Risk Assessment required if work is essential
<p>Chemicals including Carcinogens & Mutagens</p> <p>These substances may cause risk to health to the mother and/or the unborn or breastfed child, depending on how they are used</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review COSHH Assessments. Eliminate Exposure

<p>Mercury and mercury derivatives Exposure to organic mercury compounds during pregnancy could slow foetal growth and disrupt the nervous system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review COSHH Assessments. Eliminate Exposure
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<p>Carbon Monoxide Carbon monoxide readily crosses the Placenta and can starve the foetus of oxygen, having an adverse affect on the foetus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review COSHH Assessments. Eliminate Exposure
<p>Lead and lead derivatives Links with stillbirth and mild decreases in intellectual performance in childhood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review COSHH Assessments. Eliminate Exposure.
<p>Work with display screen equipment Possible health problems associated with incorrect DSE set up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review DSE Assessment whilst shape changes.