

Form	
Identification No:	
(For Departmental Use)	

ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

WORKSTATION ASSESSMENT FORM – PORTABLE COMPUTERS (LAPTOPS)

Is the “user” of the equipment covered under the provisions of the Health & Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992 and, therefore, subject to the following workstation assessment and an eye test. **Yes/No**

Users name, equipment used etc:

Name: Department:

Location (Building and Room Number):

Equipment: Date of Installation:

Note: The assessment will need to take account of lengthy and prolonged use in the same location (i.e. for “users” working at the College or at home), as well as, working in alternative locations for shorter time periods where a comfortable working posture may be less achievable.

		Yes/ No	Comments
Environment			
1	Space		
	Is there sufficient space (legal minimum 3.7m ²), with enough storage, to enable easy access to the workstation?		
	Does the space permit reasonable variation in the position of furniture and equipment?		
	When working in alternative locations for shorter time periods, have you explained the importance of sufficient space to allow postural changes?		
2	Lighting		
	Is there adequate lighting for all tasks?		
	Is lighting variable to suit ambient conditions?		
	Have desk lamps (or other local task lighting) been supplied where necessary?		
	When working in alternative locations for shorter time periods, have you explained the importance of adequate lighting for the task?		
3	Reflections and Glare		
	Have adjustable window blinds (or an alternative type of easily adjustable covering) been fitted?		
	Are wall surfaces designed to minimise reflections from falling upon the workstation?		
	Have other fixtures and fittings been positioned to avoid reflections on the workstation and other equipment?		
	When working in alternative locations for shorter time periods, have you explained the problems with reflection and glare?		
4	Temperature/Humidity		

	Is the temperature at the workstation at least 16°C?		
	Is the temperature maintained at a level that ensures operator comfort?		
	Have all sources of excess heat (i.e. those likely to cause injury or major discomfort) been eliminated or suitably controlled?		
	Is an adequate level of humidity maintained?		
	When working at alternative locations for shorter time periods, have you explained the importance of comfort in terms of the temperature and humidity of the working environment?		
5	Noise		
	Do the noise levels in the vicinity of the office/workstation disturb speech or concentration?		
Equipment			
6	The Work Chair		
	Is the chair:	a) Stable (i.e. five star base, etc)?	
		b) Does it permit freedom of movement?	
	Can you easily:	c) Adjust the height of the seat?	
		d) Adjust the height of the backrest?	
		e) Adjust the angle of the backrest?	
	Does the user use the backrest and is the height of the backrest correctly adjusted to support the lower back?		
	Does the user bend or twist neck to view screen, hunch the shoulders, twist or angle the trunk forwards or sideways?		
	Have you advised the user to avoid the use of their laptop in non-ideal locations (i.e. motor vehicles, trains, etc)?		
7	The Keyboard		
	Are there friction pads underneath the laptop to prevent it sliding across work surfaces when in use?		
	Has a docking station been provided for lengthy or repeated use?		
	Are the forearms approximately horizontal?		
	Are the hands and wrists at a neutral angle?		
	Is there adequate space in front of the keyboard to provide support for the hands and arms of the user?		
8	The Display Screen		
	Is it possible to easily tilt the screen to a suitable angle for viewing?		
	Is it possible to achieve the correct height of the screen?		
	Is it possible for the operator to alter the position of the screen where this is necessary?		
	Is the screen directly in front of the user?		

	Is the screen height correctly adjusted to the user so as to minimise tilting of the neck?		
	Is the viewing distance suitable (450mm-550mm)? <i>Note: viewing distances may be less than desktop DSE.</i>		
	Can the characters on the screen be read easily?		
	Does the display screen have easily adjustable controls for brightness and contrast?		
	Is the image on the screen stable and free from flicker or instability?		
	Is the screen free of reflections or glare?		
	Where the need cannot be avoided has an appropriate screen filter been supplied?		
9	The Mouse, Trackball or Other Pointing Device		
	Is a pointing device used? (preferably touch pad, rollerball, or external mouse rather than a 'nipple' trackpoint or isometric joystick device). <i>Please specify type of device.</i>		
	Is there enough space at the workstation to use the pointing device?		
	Is the device positioned close to the user?		
	Is there support for the device user's wrist and forearm?		
	Does the device work smoothly at a speed that suits the user?		
	Are periods of using the device regularly interspersed with other activities?		
10	Other Equipment		
	Has a footrest been made available? If No, is one required?		
	If equipment (display screen or other) is placed upon shelves, cupboards, filing cabinets, etc., are these secure and stable?		
11	The Work Desk or Work Surface		
	Is the desk or work surface sufficiently large to allow a flexible and comfortable arrangement of work equipment?		
	Does the surface have a matt finish to prevent reflections?		
	Is the height of the desk or work surface suitable for use with display screen equipment?		
	Is there sufficient space below the work surface to enable the operator to achieve a comfortable position?		
	Are the cables for the VDU/phone, etc. gathered safely?		
12	Job Design		
	Has the job been designed to incorporate off-screen activities within the working day?		
	Are there adequate opportunities for regular breaks from using display screen equipment (e.g. 5-10 minute break every hour for lengthy or repeated use in the same location or longer more regularly breaks where not working at a docking station)?		
	Have steps been taken to minimise repetitive or boring tasks (i.e. continual data entry)?		

13	Other Health and Safety Considerations		
	Have peripheral add-ons (e.g. CD-ROM and floppy drive, etc) and additional equipment (e.g. transformer/cabling) been kept to a minimum to avoid unnecessary manual handling?		
	Where this is not possible, and where there is an identifiable risk from manual handling has an appropriate risk assessment been undertaken?		
	Where manual handling is required has the user been provided with a lightweight carry case with handle and shoulder straps?		
	To reduce the risk of theft or assault has the user been provided with a carry case without the manufacturer's brand?		
14	Provision of User Information		
	Has the user been made aware of the entitlement to eye testing, eye examination and, where appropriate, provision of free corrective appliances?		
	Have you trained the user in how to recognise visual or postural fatigue, and how to respond?		
	Does the user know the correct procedure to follow in the event of a health or safety problem arising at the workstation or from the use of display screen equipment (i.e. immediate notification to their Head of Department who will notify the Health and Safety Office?)		
Additional Comments:			
Identify here any additional issues identified during the workstation assessment, and any action required			

EYE TESTING

Where the user wishes to have an eye and eyesight test, please notify them of the procedure to be followed, including that applicable when an Optician identifies “special corrective appliances” to be necessary.

DECLARATION OF ASSESSOR

I conducted the analysis of the above workstation and recommend the action to be taken, as identified above to meet the requirements of the Health & Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992.

Name

Position

Date

Review Date

DECLARATION OF ASSESSED USER

I acknowledge that I have received a workstation assessment and, in the interests of my own health and safety, agree to comply with the information and training I have received, and report immediately to my line manager any problems or concerns, including those health related.

Signature

Date

MP
18.06.04