

Home Safe, Work Safe, GLOBAL SAFE©

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEMS ARISING FROM SLIPPERY FLOORS

R. Bowman

CSIRO Division of Building, Construction and Engineering
PO Box 56, Highett, VIC 3190
Facsimile +61 3 252 6244

Extract from the document

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Specifiers and building regulators will be provided with more accurate data, and building owners and managers will benefit from improved maintenance practices. **Safer floors should result in lower insurance premiums, although there is a widespread cynical view that insurance companies do not necessarily consider this to be in their best interests as their business depends on the existence of risk. Occupational health and safety policies demand the prevention and minimisation of the risk of accidents.** If halving the incidence of accidents which result from slipping, tripping and falling on level surfaces could annually save Australian industry over \$100 million, such research would seem a worthwhile investment.

CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL CLAIM

This pertains to the future. Now, let's consider the present and specifically what happens when someone has a genuine accident that is then blamed on the floor. **Their chances of a successful claim will often depend on the immediate actions of the person or persons responsible for the area, and specifically the plans in place for such an occurrence.** However, in the majority of cases inadequate and inappropriate records are made. Too often, consultants are asked, sometimes years later, to offer an opinion as to whether the floor would have been safe or dangerous, and if dangerous, whether it was ever safe. Even in these circumstances, there is much information that a consultant can generate, although the information gathering process will vary depending on the circumstances, particularly access to the parties involved. Perhaps the best starting point is to determine the factors that should have been considered during the planning and installation. AS 3958.2, Guide to the selection of a ceramic tiling system, contains a flow chart of the process of designing a ceramic tiling system. This emphasises the need to analyse the intended environment and the anticipated conditions of use. When considering slip resistance, one must also consider the likely extent and type of contamination, the volume and type of traffic, the nature of the activities and likely footwear, the configuration of traffic and non-traffic areas, the presence of drains, slopes and stairs, the COF of adjoining floor materials, amongst other factors. The consultant must appraise such aspects together with the condition of the floor as a consequence of design, fixing, maintenance and cleaning. **It has been stated (Hughes) that in almost 60% of slippery floors, some blame has to be attached to poor cleaning and maintenance routines. It has been estimated that in Australia, 74% of public liability claims relate to slips and falls, 86% of these incidents were preventable, and that 77% of the preventable incidents related to cleaning practices.**



Toll Free 1300 668 620 E-mail: info@globalsafe.com.au

Web: www.globalsafe.com.au

In Australia: 23/159 Chifley street, Wetherill Park NSW 2164

In New Zealand & Pacific Island: "Langtry" 54 State Highway 2, Masterton New Zealand

In Canada: Suite 512 13711 72nd Avenue, Surrey B.C. V3W 2P2

In the United States: Unit 330-131 1733H Street, Blaine WA. 98230-5107





Global Safe Technologies (Australia) Pty Ltd

----- Creating a safer world one step at a time -----

Home Safe, Work Safe, GLOBAL SAFE©

For further information please click on www.globalsafe.com.au/enquiry.php

or

to get your local Authorised Dealer details click on
www.globalsafe.com.au/contactus.php

or

contact

Tibor Bode

Master Distributor

Global Safe Technologies (Australia) Pty Ltd

Tel: +61 (0)2 9729 4479

Toll Free: 1300 668 620

Email: info@globalsafe.com.au

Website: www.globalsafe.com.au



Toll Free 1300 668 620 E-mail: info@globalsafe.com.au

Web: www.globalsafe.com.au

In Australia: 23/159 Chifley street, Wetherill Park NSW 2164

In New Zealand & Pacific Island: "Langtry" 54 State Highway 2, Masterton New Zealand

In Canada: Suite 512 13711 72nd Avenue, Surrey B.C. V3W 2P2

In the United states: Unit 330-131 1733H Street, Blaine WA. 98230-5107

