

Safety Alert - Kitchen Equipment in Offices

Number 17-01

1 BACKGROUND

Recently kitchen equipment such as fridges, microwaves, toasters, kettles were observed within personal and small group offices presenting a numbers of hazards/risks including fire, electrical, slip/trip hazards. These facilities were not part of the UON designated kitchenette facilities provided by UON.

For example, the use of such equipment within office spaces:

- Increases the potential risk of fire
- Increases the heat within the offices – a significant issue over the past few weeks of extreme temperatures
- Increases the electrical load, which could lead to an overload of the circuit
- The fire detection system in office areas may be fitted with smoke detectors rather than thermal detectors used in kitchen facilities. This increases the risk of setting off the smoke detectors



The result of the hazards/ risks would be significant, including for research facilities.

2 ACTION REQUIRED

Kitchen equipment, such as kettles, toasted sandwich makers, microwaves, kettles should not be used in personal office spaces. The UON designated kitchen facilities which include fridges, microwaves and hot water should be used.

If kitchenette facilities provided do not meet the needs of the users, IFS should be contacted for assistance.

3 ASSISTANCE

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Health and Safety Team on 49218847 (x18847).