

CIPS

L3M6

Socially Responsible Warehousing and Distribution

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Question: 1

Select all of the following which would pose a health and safety risk within a warehouse environment.

- A. "Proximity to moving vehicles (Correct)"
- B. "Manual handling (Correct)"
- C. "Working at height (Correct)"
- D. "Slip and trip hazards (Correct)"

Answer: A,B,C,D

Explanation:

The correct answer is that all of these shown create hazards, which along with exposure to chemicals, gases and some forms of dust, must be guarded against. In most countries there is legislation which should be observed to promote safe working.

Warehouses and factories are highly hazardous places, and managers should ensure that stringent safety procedures are followed to the letter, in some cases, upon pain of dismissal for employees. For examples, vehicles and humans should be physically separated wherever possible, and items at height should be handled with utmost care.

(Yesterday I witnessed a crane manoeuvre (outside the UK) where an operative was standing directly under a very heavy item, which had it fallen, would have instantly killed the operative. Such practices need to be trained out of people, irrespective of the cost.)

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Question: 1

OECD has written about the concept of a 'pyramid of CSR responsibilities'.

'Being a good corporate citizen' is described as being at the highest level of the pyramid, and falls within which of the following sets of responsibilities?

In other words, which of these options shown, is at the highest level of the CSR pyramid?

- A. "Ethical responsibilities"
- B. "Economic responsibilities"
- C. "Discretionary responsibilities (Correct)"
- D. "Legal responsibilities"

Answer: C

Explanation:

The order of responsibilities is as follows: economic (be profitable - keep the business going); legal (comply with the law); ethical (act in an ethical way); discretionary (be a good citizen - do things above and beyond eg for the local community, supporting small suppliers, overseas suppliers, etc). Frankly, any organisation not being economic, legal and ethical needs to take a serious look at itself. Don't you think?

Question: 2

Which of the following would logically and normally be factors in selecting the location of a new warehouse?

- A. "Local wage rates (Correct)"
- B. "Interest rates"
- C. "Access to rail / road networks (Correct)"
- D. "Proximity to customers / suppliers (Correct)"

Answer: A,C,D

Explanation:

Rail / road access, customer / supplier proximity, local wage rates would all be factors in the decision regarding location of a new storage facility / distribution centre. Interest rates would be set at a national level, at least, so would be unlikely to feature as an important decision-making criterion.

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Question: 3

One international body has published Guidelines for Multinational Companies about how they should seek to operate in a socially responsible way, including accepting their responsibilities in regard to the environment. Which organisation published this document?

- A. ISO
- B. "ECB"
- C. "CIPS"
- D. "OECD (Correct)"

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published this much-needed document. You probably know what ISO is and what its role is in relation to procurement. (?) Same for CIPS.

ECB is a facetious answer: English Cricket Board.

Question: 4

Which of the following are likely to be significant contributors to environmental damage caused by warehouses?

- A. "Legislation related to health and safety of employees working in and around the warehouse"
- B. "The location of the warehouse itself (Correct)"
- C. "Energy consumed by the warehouse building itself (Correct)"
- D. "The use of warehouse handling equipment, for example, forklift trucks (Correct)"

Answer: B,C,D

Explanation:

It is unlikely that health and safety legislation will itself create meaningful environmental costs. Probably the opposite.

However, the siting / location of the warehouse itself can be significant: is it near customers / supplier thus reducing distances travelled? Do employees need to use vehicles to get to work, or is public transport readily available?

Modern warehouses should be designed in a relatively environmentally-friendly way. For example, well-insulated, using modern materials technology.

And then the materials-handling equipment: again, latest technology can help. A battery-powered forklift creates fewer emissions (potentially including a 'green' power source) than a smoky noisy spluttering old diesel forklift.

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Question: 5

Choose two which are from the 'three pillars of sustainability':

- A. "Preservation"
- B. "People (Correct)"
- C. "Pollution"
- D. "Profit (Correct)"

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

People, planet, profit.

The notion here is that commerce is not just about profit, but about people and our effect on the planet as well. This is now a widely-accepted view. The 3 P's are a useful form of shorthand.

Question: 6

An Environmental Impact Assessment does not necessarily include cumulative effects or impacts.

True or false?

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: A

Explanation:

True.

EIAs can be direct, indirect or cumulative.

Question: 7

'Avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance' is a definition of:

- A. "Responsible production and consumption"
- B. "Corporate social responsibility"
- C. "Triple bottom line"
- D. "Sustainability (Correct)"

Answer: D

Explanation:

Sustainability fits the bill: the other answers are related, but don't quite nail it.

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