



SAFETY UPDATE

Issue 12 December 2018

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NEWS

NEW SITE DUMPER SAFETY GUIDANCE ISSUED

Construction plant sector concerns prompts CPA consults on draft

A number of serious incidents involving forward tipping dumpers e.g. overturns and individuals being struck, has prompted production of a Good Practice Guide through the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group (SFPSG) led by the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA).

The draft document is now available to be downloaded for public comment thereby providing an opportunity for comments on the content before the document is formally launched. The closing date for comments is set for Friday 11th January 2019.

Dumper not necessarily the first choice

A central message is that the use of a dumper should not be an automatic choice. The correct identification of the most appropriate machine should be the first step followed by effective planning, supervision and the use of competent people if dumpers are to be used safely.

The use of dumpers fitted with a cab is becoming common and the guidance outlines some of the issues and considerations that need to be made in terms of allowing an operator to remain seated during the loading process.

All comments received will be reviewed by the group with the amendments and additions made accordingly. This should allow the final release of the document by Easter 2019.

The Lift and Escalator Industry Association

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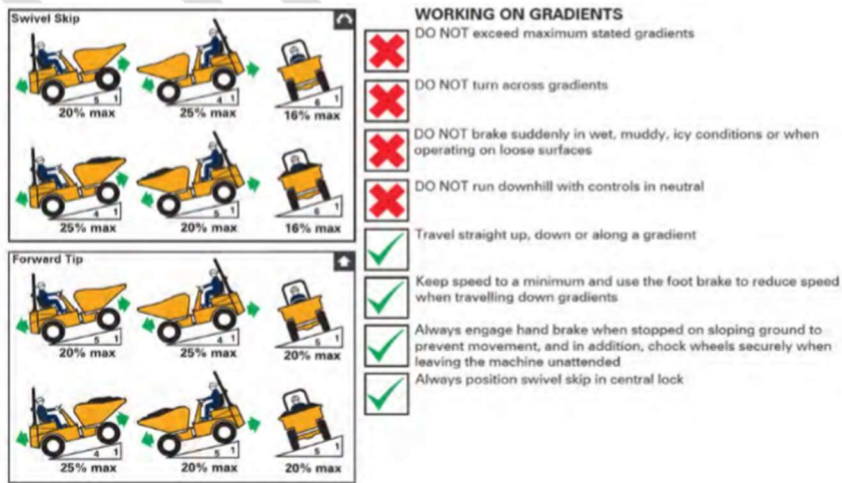


Figure 4 - Example of Slope Limits when Travelling on Inclines

CONSTRUCTION INJURY AND ILL-HEALTH 2017/18

Fatal injury rate in long term decline whilst ill-health trend flat lining

HSE has published the annual statistics showing 1.4 million workers were suffering from work-related ill health and around 555,000 from non-fatal injuries in 2017/18.

There have been no significant changes in the industries in which workers are most likely to be injured by their work, with construction and agriculture among the higher risk sectors.

Martin Temple, HSE Chair, said of the findings across all industries:

"Great Britain's health and safety record is something we should all be proud of, but there is still much to be done to ensure that every worker goes home at the end of their working day safe and healthy."

Construction Sector Key Statistics

The statistics include a report on construction which finds:

Ill-health – estimated 82,000 work-related ill health cases (new or longstanding) – 62% were musculoskeletal disorders – 25% were stress, depression or anxiety;

Fatal injuries – 38 fatal injuries to workers and six to members of the public. This compares with 39 fatalities to workers and four to members of the public, on average, each year over the last five years;

Enforcement – provisional figures for 2017/18 show a total of 3,015 enforcement notices issued by HSE inspectors in Construction with the prohibition notices amounting to about 60% of all such notices issued by HSE. There were 206 prosecution cases in 2017/18, resulting in almost £19 million in total fines averaging over £98,000 per conviction.



Work-related injuries

Fatalities

In Construction there were:

- **38** fatal injuries to workers and six to members of the public in 2017/18;
- **39** fatalities to workers and **four** to members of the public, on average, each year over the last five years;
- **47%** of deaths over the same five year period, were due to falls from height,
- **12%** each were due to being trapped by something collapsing or being struck by an object. ([See page 2.](#))

Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18; RIDDOR, 2013/14-2017/18

CASES

RACKING FALL REVEALED UNSAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

European firm fined £300,000 after UK sub-contractor employee fell

Two companies have been fined after a worker fell from a warehouse racking system, suffering serious head injuries in February 2016.

Liverpool Magistrates heard how recommissioning work on the warehouse racking system was being carried out at premises when one of the workers fell 10m from the top of the racking system onto the concrete floor below.

HSE investigators found the main contractor subcontracted the work to another contractor.

There was no safe system of work in place. There were no physical barriers to prevent anyone from falling nor was an effective fall arrest system put in place.

Responsible for developing safe working methods

The contractor from the Netherlands was ordered to pay fines of £300,000 whilst the UK company from Doncaster was fined over £36k.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Jane Carroll said:



"Those in control of work have a responsibility to develop safe working methods and to ensure that their workers have the necessary information, instruction and training in that safe way of working. Had such a safe system of work been in place prior to the incident, the serious injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented".

FORK LIFT OVERTURNED IN SCAFFOLDING YARD

Untrained operator suffered life changing crush injuries

A scaffolding company has been fined over £50k after a workman was crushed when the forklift truck (FLT) he was using overturned in October 2016.

Leeds Magistrates heard how the injured workman was using the FLT in the scaffolding yard when the vehicle overturned, trapping him underneath it for some time.

He sustained serious life changing internal injuries and now lives with constant chronic pain and has severe mobility issues.

Failures in supervision and monitoring

HSE investigators found that the company failed to provide training to their employees on the safe operations of FLT's, which would have included the importance of wearing seat belts.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Andrea Jones commented:



"The employee's injuries were life changing and could have been fatal. The impact has been devastating on him and his family. Other employees were put at risk as a result of the company allowing fork lift trucks to be used without the appropriate training and monitoring of drivers."

POORLY PLANNED LIFT DISMANTLING KILLED WORKMAN

Counterweight or suspension rope struck worker in lift shaft

Two companies have been fined a combined sum of £300,000 after a worker was found seriously injured in a lift shaft in March 2016.

South Tyneside Magistrates heard how the deceased workman was tasked, along with at least one other worker, to dismantle the lift in a former office block.

Examination of the lift by the HSE Specialist Inspectors concluded that it was most likely he was struck by the lift falling counterweight and/or falling lift suspension ropes.

Stored energy not taken into account

HSE found the method of work used to dismantle the lift was unsafe and failed to take account of the stored energy in the lift counterweight and ropes.

The CDM Principal Contractor failed to adequately plan and manage the dismantling of the lift and engaged a contractor who did not have the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the work.

The Principal Contractor from Sheffield was fined £100,000 for each offence and the employer from Coalville was fined £200,000.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Zoe Wood said:



"Demolition and dismantling on lifts must be planned by persons with knowledge of the principles and operating modes of the specific lift machine, its related safety features and the means by which it is incorporated into the structure of the building. All of these matters will help determine the most suitable method of work for the dismantling/demolition activity."

GAS MAIN STRIKE REPAIR CAUSED SEVERE BURNS

Contractor excavator damage to gas pipe ends in £1.2m fine

A major UK gas distribution company and a contractor have been prosecuted after a gas main leak ignited whilst it was being repaired, injuring two workers in May 2016 in Whitstable, Kent.

Folkestone Magistrates heard how gas escaped after the contractor damaged a medium pressure polyethylene main during construction work.

During the repair by the gas company the escaping gas was ignited causing the injuries to two workmen. One worker suffered severe burns while the other sustained cuts and bruises.

Both parties failed to take precautions

HSE investigators found a failure to follow safe digging techniques when excavating around the pipeline resulting in the gas main being damaged by a mechanical excavator. The gas company failed to follow their own procedures or recognised safe systems of work when repairing the main.

The gas company was fined £1.2million and the contractor was fined £60,000. Speaking after the hearing HSE Principal Specialist Inspector Martin Wayland said:

Mechanical excavations

Mechanical excavators (including breaker attachments) MUST NOT be used within the following distances from gas mains.

Low Pressure	0.5 metres
Medium Pressure	0.5 metres
Intermediate Pressure	3.0 metres

"This incident, in which a worker could have easily been killed, could have been avoided if safe excavation had been carried out and safe mains repair policies had been followed. Both companies were aware of the precautions that were required to be taken"

REBAR FELL FROM FLT IN UNSAFE LIFTING OPERATION

Multiple fractures caused by inappropriate use of fork lift

A steel fabricating company has been fined after a worker was injured by steel falling on him in December 2016.

Chelmsford Magistrates Court heard how an employee was struck by a bundle of steel reinforcement bar which fell from a fork lift truck whilst they were being moved, causing multiple fractures in his leg.

Bar slipping risk not reduced

HSE investigators found the company did not have a safe system of work in place to avoid this kind of incident.

In particular, workstations were not separated from vehicles routes; lifting accessories were not provided to reduce the risk of the rebar slipping from the forks; and forklift truck drivers were not provided with site-specific and load-specific training.

The employer was fined £100,000. After the hearing HSE inspector Nikki Hughes said



"This incident could easily have been avoided by the implementation of affordable control measures, such as a lifting accessory being used on the forklift truck. Handling and moving rebar is a well-recognised industry risk, which the company failed to identify and manage, despite the activity occurring frequently during a working day."

MAJOR FM FIRM FAILED TO MAINTAIN BACK-UP POWER

Power loss at laboratory site created potential risk from biological agents

A facilities management company has been fined after multiple safety failings at a laboratory site in Weybridge in September 2014.

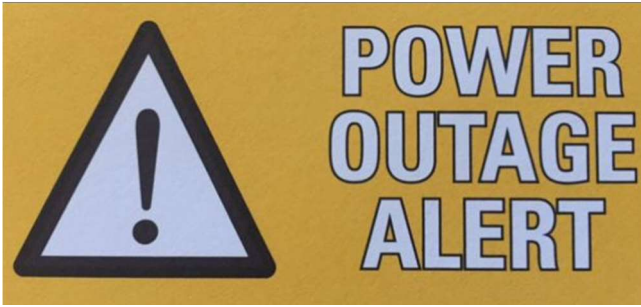
The FM firm was contracted to maintain mechanical and electrical systems required for containment and control of high hazard biological agents in microbiological containment laboratories. The pathogens handled in the lab could pose a serious risk to human health and the environment.

Hove Crown Court heard how mains power was lost at the site. Twelve generators were in place to supply emergency power to the site. However, two generators failed to operate and two started but subsequently failed in operation, one of which also caught fire.

Generators not maintained effectively

HSE found failings in relation to the maintenance activities undertaken on standby generators. The FM company from London, pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £93,600.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Intervention Programme Manager and lead investigator in the case, Dr Keith Stephenson said:



"Had the incident happened on a different day or when different studies were being undertaken, staff and the nearby environment could have been exposed to high hazard biological agents with serious consequences."

IGNORING HSE PROHIBITIONS COST FIRM £250,000

CDM 2015 and work at height requirements repeatedly breached

A construction company has been fined £250,000 after failing to manage health and safety on-site during late 2017 and early 2018.

Chelmsford Magistrates heard how in October 2017 HSE served three prohibition notices after the regulator found serious breaches of legislation on-site during construction work carried out in Wickford, Essex.

The company was found in contravention of Work at Height Regulations 2005 and The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

Follow-up inspections found further working at height breaches and demonstrated a breach of the original notice.

Enforcement notice breaches taken seriously

HSE told the court that the company had not taken steps to comply with the original prohibition notice and had failed to plan, manage and monitor construction work under their control and £250,000.

After the hearing, HSE inspector David King said:



"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards, and especially when enforcement notices are breached."

FAILURE TO ACT ON VIBRATION AND SILICA HAZARDS

Worker health put at risk during stripping of furnace lining

A furnace relining company has been sentenced for failing to control worker exposure to both vibration and respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

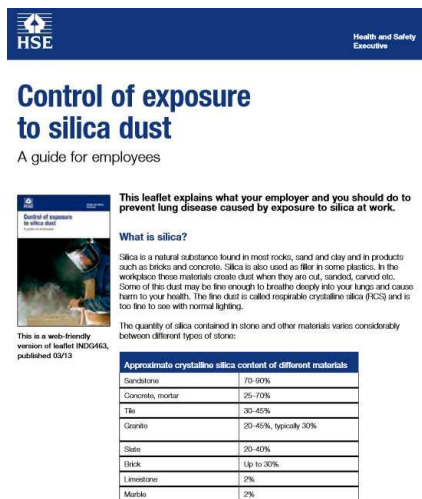
Leeds Crown Court heard how the company reported two cases of employees suffering Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) in early 2017. HSE found that no measures had been put in place to control exposure to vibration when using pneumatic tools.

HSE also discovered there was no health surveillance in place to identify any early signs of effects on worker health. The failings identified dated from 2006.

Previous HSE advice on RCS

Between April 2004 and December 2017 no measures were implemented to control worker exposure to RCS whilst stripping and replacing furnace linings, and no health surveillance was put in place despite previous advice from HSE.

The defendant from Leeds was fined £60,000. After the hearing, HSE inspector Julian Franklin commented:



Control of exposure to silica dust
A guide for employees

This leaflet explains what your employer and you should do to prevent lung disease caused by exposure to silica at work.

What is silica?
Silica is a natural substance found in most rocks, sand and clay and in products such as bricks and concrete. Silica is also used as filler in some plastics. In the workplace these materials create dust when they are cut, sanded, carved etc. Some of this dust may be fine enough to breathe deeply into your lungs and cause harm to your health. The fine dust is called respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and is too fine to see with normal lighting.

The quantity of silica contained in stone and other materials varies considerably between different types of stone:

Approximate crystalline silica content of different materials	
Sandstone	70-90%
Concrete, mortar	25-70%
Tile	30-45%
Granite	20-45%, typically 30%
Slate	20-40%
Block	Up to 30%
Limestone	2%
Marble	2%

"Exposure to vibration can cause HAVS, a loss of nerve function, strength and dexterity in the fingers which is permanent and untreatable while exposure to silica can cause silicosis, leading to impaired lung function, lung cancer and death. Companies should know HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those failing to protect their workers."

PUBLICATIONS

HSE Stress Indicator Tool

HSE's Stress Indicator Tool (SIT) provides a quick and easy way to determine the extent to which work-related stress is a problem in your organisation, and the likely root cause. The HSE have a free to download version here:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/standards/downloads.htm>

Or the tool is available in software form licensable from HSE books:

https://books.hse.gov.uk/bookstore.asp?FO=1359081#utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=stress-0612&utm_content=stress-indicator

BSI PPE Blog – the Correct Helmet

https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/blog/Personal-Protective-Equipment-Blog/the-correct-helmet/?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_term=newsletter&utm_content=risk1&utm_campaign=GL-NEWS-Dynamic+newsletter-1811

RoSPA Workplace Safety Blog – Accidents Don't Have to Happen

<https://rospaworkplacesafety.com/2018/12/10/accidents-dont-have-to-happen/>