



SAFETY UPDATE

Issue 06 June 2019

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CPA – CONSTRUCTION PLANT HIRE

NEWS

LEIA SITE SAFETY HANDBOOK REVISED

The LEIA Site Safety Handbook was last revised in 2012. The Safety and Environment Committee considered that revision was appropriate to ensure the handbook was kept up to date.

Several of the illustrations were revised, some having been used since the first edition of the handbook in 1969.

Most printers do not charge significantly more for full colour printing so the opportunity was taken to move away from the two-colour process used in the past and to create a clear index and a more easily readable book.

Cost of the book has been kept as low as possible. Member price is £10.00 and non-Members £20.00 and there is a discount for bulk orders of multiples of 90 books. Postage and packing will be charged extra.

Application for copies should be made through the LEIA office.

HSE TARGETS PRINCIPAL DESIGNERS IN 2019/20

New business plan puts health and Principal Designers in HSE spotlight

The HSE Business Plan 2019/20 brings together the key actions to be taken by the regulator in 2019/2020, grouped under five themes:

- Lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety;
- Provide an effective regulatory framework;
- Secure effective management and control of risk;
- Reduce the likelihood of low frequency, high-impact catastrophic incident; and
- Enable improvement through efficient and effective delivery.

The themes of the plan are consistent with previous years with more context for the reader in terms of what HSE do and why.

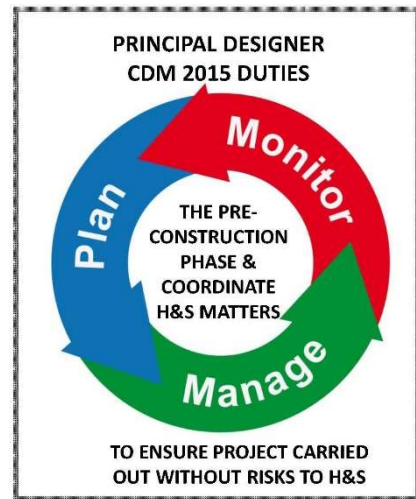
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Inspection of PD service providers

The proposed HSE actions in respect of the construction sector in order to “secure management and control of risk” are described as follows:

“Our inspection activities will focus on:

- **Refurbishment Projects** – SMEs carrying out refurbishments;
- **Principal Designers** – embedding the requirements of CDM 2015 through targeted inspections of duty holders providing Principal Designer services;
- **Lung Disease and MSDs** – prevention and control of occupational lung disease (especially asbestos and dust) and MSDs”



In preparation for HSE inspections, Principal Designers will want to review how they are fulfilling their key responsibilities under CDM 2015.

REMINDER OF APPLICABILITY OF WEEE AND ROHS TO LIFTS AND ESCALATORS

Re-reading WEEE and ROHS recently, lifts and escalators are large-size fixed installations under both sets of Regulations and are excluded from both:

WEEE Regs 2013:

Exclusions

8. These Regulations do not apply to the following EEE...

...(c) large-scale fixed installations;

Where Large-scale fixed installations are defined as:

...a large-size combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices which:

(a) are assembled, installed and de-installed by professionals

(b) are intended to be used permanently as part of a building or a structure at a pre-defined and dedicated location; and

(c) can only be replaced by the same specifically designed equipment;

ROHS Regs 2012:

SCHEDULE 1 PART 2

EEE to which these Regulations do not apply...

14. Equipment which is specifically designed, and is to be installed, as part of another type of equipment to which these Regulations do not apply, which can fulfil its function only if it is part of that equipment, and which can be replaced only by the same specifically designed equipment.

16. Large-scale fixed installations being a large-scale combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices, which are—

(a) assembled and installed by professionals;

(b) intended to be used permanently in a pre-defined and dedicated location; and

(c) de-installed by professionals.

None of the amendments to WEEE or ROHS refer to the types of equipment, only to processes and materials.

NEW SITE DUMPER GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

Good practice guide for safe use of dumpers now available

The Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group (SFPSG) has now made available a *Good Practice Guide for the Safe Use of Dumpers* to tackle site dumper incidents involving vehicle overturns and individuals being struck by dumpers.

The guidance focuses on forward tipping dumpers, commonly used to transport earths and materials, negotiating variable ground and terrain and discharging loads into excavations or on spoil heaps. These activities have led to incidents resulting in serious injuries and deaths to either the dumper operator or those near to the machine.

Single comprehensive document

The content produced by four working groups has been assimilated into a single comprehensive document covering: Planning the use of dumpers; Selection of, types and limitations of dumpers; Management and supervision requirements; Stability, loading, driving and discharging; Training and information; Segregation/exclusion zones; Ground conditions; and Maintenance and inspections.

Kevin Minton, Chief Executive of the CPA said:

For a link to the Guidance See Publications at the end of this newsletter



“Using dumpers safely depends on a number of factors. If any of these factors are deficient, the risk of a serious accident increases significantly and it is therefore essential that all of those involved need to ensure that dumper operations are properly planned, managed, supervised and carried out safely by competent people.”

TEMPORARY WORKS: NEW GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

TW Forum (TWf) advice on PC concrete, platforms and stockpiles

The Temporary Works Forum (TWf) aims to encourage open discussion of any matter related to temporary works and is open to clients, permanent works designers, principal contractors, temporary works designers, proprietary equipment suppliers, specialists, industry bodies or academia.

Recent publications include:

Precast concrete – Good practice and common issues in temporary works (TWf2019: 01)

Developed to provide generic, practical guidance for the design, management, handling, transportation and erection of precast concrete elements on site. It covers the steps to be taken from manufacturing through to final placement or demolition, but it is not intended to cover every situation or component.

Working Platforms – Design of granular working platforms for construction plant: A guide to good practice

Temporary granular platforms for construction plant (including haul roads and general hard standings) are a necessary feature of almost all construction sites but the need to ensure that they are adequate for the intended use is often overlooked.

Stockpiles – member responses on temporary works design.

This information sheet summarises a number of responses received from members in response to a query about the size of stockpile that requires a temporary works design.

For a link to the Guidance See Publications at the end of this newsletter



CASES

SUPPLIER OF FLOORING ADHESIVE FINED £500,000

Floor layer died after being overcome by dichloromethane vapour

A supplier of adhesives and a flooring installation contractor have been fined a total of £750,000 following the death of a workman laying a bathroom floor in London in September 2015.

Westminster Magistrates heard that contractor had not implemented systems or procedures adequately to control the risks from working in an enclosed space with the substance dichloromethane (DCM).

The decision on whether to wear respiratory protection equipment (RPE) or the type of RPE required was “left up to employees”. Completely ineffectual RPE was being worn.

Supplier information inadequate

The flooring adhesive supplier marketed the product for use in bathrooms and failed to identify particular risks and to provide sufficient information about the acute risks of DCM. Instructional videos made no mention of ventilation required and no use of PPE or RPE by workers in the videos.

The contractor was fined £250,000 whilst the product supplier was fined £500k for an offence under HSW Act Section 6.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Peter Collingwood said:

Figure 12 Full face mask respirators – gas/vapour filter



“This tragic incident which has had a devastating effect on a young family was wholly avoidable. It is important that companies have an appreciation of their duties, (whether to its employees or its customers) and have effective systems and procedures in place to ensure that those duties are fulfilled”.

ELECTRICAL BURNS ON DEMOLITION PROJECT

Bar thrown at electrical equipment to prove dead ...revealed system live

Two companies have been fined after a workman received serious electrical burns during demolition work on a project in Essex in April 2017 whilst removing electrical distribution equipment.

One of the men was told by the Principal Contractor that the electrical equipment was isolated. In order to reassure his colleague that the system was safe he “threw a crowbar” at the 400V AC equipment.

The bar came into contact with live exposed conductors causing a flashover and temperatures of several thousand degrees, followed by a subsequent fire.

Failure to follow method statement

HSE investigators found that the task being undertaken had not been properly planned and suitable control measures were not implemented to ensure the isolation of the power supply.

The contractor was fined £80,000 and the Principal Contractor from London was fined £80,000 for breaching HSW Act Section 3. After the hearing HSE inspector Adam Hills said



“This incident has had a significant impact on his life and the injuries could so very easily have been fatal. Had the companies followed the control measures outlined in their respective risk assessments, then this incident would not have occurred.

Never assume that an electrical supply is disconnected. Always check with the Distribution Network Operator or a qualified electrician to obtain written proof of isolation before

FINGERS AMPUTATED IN WOOD MACHINE INCIDENTS

Joinery firm failed to provide effective safeguards on saw and planer

Reading Magistrates have heard how employees of a joinery business were injured in two separate incidents involving cutting tools.

One employee was injured whilst cutting timber on the blade of an unstable sliding table saw in August 2017 causing amputations to the middle and index fingers on his right hand.

The second incident involved an apprentice joiner feeding timber through a planer / thicknesser machine. The guard was insufficient and the rotating cutter came into contact with the finger of the employee causing amputation down to the first knuckle.

Failure to comply with Improvement Notice

The company complied with a Prohibition Notice issued by HSE by making the sliding table saw stable but failed to comply with the Improvement Notices within the (extended) deadline.

The company from Chesham was fined a total of £10,600 and ordered to pay costs of £2k. Speaking after the case, HSE Inspector Thomas Giles said



“This incident could easily have been prevented had the machinery been properly maintained. Failings in health and safety management were reflected in the general poor standards which were further compounded by the company’s non-compliance with Improvement Notices served by HSE. Awareness and management of health and safety, regardless of the company size, is crucial to ensuring the safety of the workforce.”

FIRM FAILED TO ENFORCE FALL ARREST SYSTEM

Worker 5m fall through roof preventable by scaffolding and safety nets

A construction company has been fined after an employee received serious injuries when he fell 5m through a fragile roof in May 2017.

Boston Magistrates heard how the workman was involved in constructing the roof of a new agricultural building adjacent to an existing barn in Louth, Lincolnshire.

During the work he stepped onto the fragile roof of the adjacent barn which gave way under his weight causing him to fall onto the concrete floor below. His back was fractured in the incident.

Harnesses provided but not used

HSE investigators found that the system of work in use to control risks from work at height was fundamentally unsuitable. The system relied on workers wearing harnesses to control the risk of falling when it would have been more appropriate to use edge protection or nets. In addition, although harnesses were provided their use was not enforced by the company.

The firm from Skegness was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5k. HSE inspector Roy Poulter speaking after the case said:



“Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working. If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the serious injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented.”

CONCRETE PUMP FLAILING LINE CAUSED DEATH

Hose whipped violently when blockage cleared under pressure

An Essex-based company has been fined following the death of concrete worker at a dockside apron-upgrade project on the Port of Felixstowe in August 2015.

Chelmsford Crown Court heard the defendant was the main contractor who engaged a specialist concrete pumping contractor to pump the concrete and a concrete laying contractor to lay the concrete.

A flexible delivery hose through which concrete was being pumped became momentarily blocked. The hose cleared under pressure, causing it to violently “whip round”. An employee of the concrete laying sub-contractor died and another worker suffered cuts and bruising.

Exclusion zone not enforced

HSE found the company failed to effectively plan and manage the safe pumping of concrete. An exclusion zone around the hose was not enforced and the firm failed to adequately supervise, instruct and monitor the pumping operations.

The company breached CDM 2015 regulation 15 and was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £13,883.60. Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Glyn Davies said:



“This tragic incident could easily have been prevented had the company involved acted to identify and manage the well-documented risks involved in concrete pumping by the implementation of suitable safe systems of work.

As this case sadly demonstrates, poorly managed concrete pumping operations can and do kill construction workers when industry safety guidance is not followed.”

LOLER INSPECTIONS LATE AND RESULTS IGNORED

Granite supplier failed to inspect lifting equipment and take action

A granite worktop manufacturer has been fined £30,000 after failing to ensure that lifting equipment was examined and maintained to ensure it was safe to use.

Mold Magistrates heard how the company was not having regular statutory examinations carried out on lifting equipment and also failed to carry out repairs when defects had been found.

Routine HSE inspection exposed offences

Following an HSE inspection on 18 June 2018 at the site in Buckley, it was discovered that the examinations were not carried out at the required six-monthly intervals and when they were carried out the same faults were reported, as the company were not taking action to effect the repairs.

The firm pleaded guilty to breaching LOLER Regulation 9, fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4906. Speaking after the case HSE inspector Mhairi Duffy said



“This prosecution could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.”

SOLAR PANEL CLEAN RESULTED IN FRAGILE ROOF FALL

Elevated work platform would have been mitigated fall risk

A window cleaning company has been sentenced for safety breaches after a worker suffered bone fractures following a fall through a fragile roof light in February 2016.

Leeds Magistrates heard how three workmen were cleaning a 400-panel solar array on a roof in Dishforth and had nearly finished the job when one walked up the roof towards the apex.

He was unaware of the fragile roof light and when he walked on to the rooflight it fractured under his weight causing him to fall 7m to the floor below.

Incident easily avoided

An investigation by HSE found the company failed to ensure that the risks from working at height had been minimised.

The company from York pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and fined £6000. After the hearing, HSE inspector Rachel Brittain commented:



“This incident could so easily have been avoided by carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. If the work had been carried out from an elevated work platform with harnesses and lanyards, falls from height would have been mitigated”

PUBLICATIONS

BS 5975:2019 Code of practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework Published: May 2019

From BSI online:

<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=000000000030349708>

BS EN ISO 2553:2019 Welding and allied processes. Symbolic representation on drawings. Welded joints

From BSI online:

<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=000000000030353045>

CPA – Construction Plant-hire Association Site Dumper Guidance

Available to download:

<https://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpsgpublications/>

Temporary Works Forum: Guidance on Pre-cast Concrete, Working Platforms, Stockpiles

Available to download:

<https://www.twforum.org.uk/viewdocument/precast-concrete-good-practice-and>

<https://www.twforum.org.uk/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=f74318ff-716b-79a3-f483-77f77a584e05&forceDialog=0>

<https://www.twforum.org.uk/viewdocument/twf-information-sheet-no-5-stockp>