





## Common Site Hazards

The following is a list of the hazards most commonly found on construction sites. The questions it asks are intended to help you decide whether your site is a safe and healthy place to work and if your particular operations are being carried out safely and in accordance with safety legislation and best practice.

### **USE THIS LIST TO ASSIST IN PLANNING AND CONDUCTING SITE INSPECTIONS**

#### **Safe Places of Work**

Can everyone reach his or her places of work safely, e.g. are traffic routes and access equipment in good condition?

Are guardrails or equivalent protections in place to prevent falls of people or materials?

Are holes and openings securely guard railed and clearly marked?

Are structures stable, adequately braced and not overloaded?

Are working areas free from unnecessary obstructions?

Is the site tidy and are materials stored safely?

Are proper arrangements in place for waste removal?

Are work areas sufficiently lit?

#### **Scaffolds**

Are scaffolds erected, altered and dismantled by competent person?

Is safe access provided to the scaffold platform?

Are all uprights provided with base plates?

Are the uprights, ledgers, braces and struts in position?

Is the scaffold secured to the building or structure in enough places to prevent collapse?

Is adequate edge protection provided?

Are working platforms fully boarded?

Are arrangements in place to prevent people using an incomplete scaffold?

Has the scaffold been designed and constructed to cope with the materials stored on it and are these distributed evenly?

Does a competent person inspect the scaffold at least weekly and record the findings?

#### **Powered Access Equipment**

Has a competent person erected the equipment?

Is fixed equipment, e.g. mast climbers, rigidly connected to the structure against which it is operating?

Does the working platform have adequate edge protection?

Have precautions been taken to prevent people being struck by the moving platform or by projections from the building or falls of materials?

Are the operators trained and competent?

Are the power supply isolated and the work equipment secured at the end of the working day?

### **Ladders**

Are ladders the right means of access for the job?

Are ladders in good condition?

Are ladders correctly secured and positioned prior to use?

Do ladders rise a sufficient height above the landing place?

Do ladders rest on a solid surface?

## **Roof Work**

Is sufficient edge protection provided to prevent people or materials falling from roofs?

Does the roof have sufficient hand and foot holds? If not are crawling ladders or boards provided and used?

Is adequate edge protection provided?

Are adequate measures in place for working near fragile materials such as asbestos cement sheets or roof lights?

Are people excluded from the area below the roof work? If this is not possible have additional precautions been taken to stop debris falling onto them?

## **Hoists**

Is the hoist protected by a substantial enclosure to prevent persons from being struck by any moving part of the hoist or from falling down the hoistway?

Are gates provided at all landings, including ground level?

Are the gates kept shut except when the platform is at the landing?

Are the controls arranged so that the hoist can be operated from one position only?

Is the hoist operator trained and competent?

Is the hoist's safe working load clearly marked?

If the hoist is for materials only are warning notices displayed to stop people riding on it?

Is the hoist inspected weekly and examined every six months with records kept?

## **Cranes and Lifting Machinery**

Is the crane on a firm level base?

Are the safe working loads and corresponding radii known and considered before any lifting begins?

If the crane has a capacity of more than one tonne, does it have an automatic safe load indicator that is maintained and inspected weekly?

Are operators and banksmen/slingers trained and competent?

Are cranes inspected weekly and thoroughly examined every 12 months with records kept?

Does the crane have a current test certificate?

## **Plant and Machinery**

Is the right plant and machinery being used for the job?

Are all dangerous parts guarded?

Are guards secured and in good repair?

Is the machinery maintained in good repair and are all safety devices operating correctly?

Are operators trained and competent?

### **Traffic and Vehicles**

Are vehicles and pedestrian routes been separated wherever possible?

Has the need for reversing been avoided where practicable?

Where it is necessary for vehicles to reverse, are they controlled by properly trained banksmen?

Are vehicles properly maintained?

Have all drivers received proper training?

Are vehicles securely loaded?

Are passengers prevented from riding in dangerous positions?

## **Fire and Emergencies**

Is there a responsible person for fire safety on site?

Have competent persons for fire safety been appointed?

Has an emergency evacuation plan been produced?

Are emergency evacuation procedures in place (e.g. evacuation notices)?

Are people on site aware of the procedures?

Is there a means of raising the alarm and does it work?

Are there adequate unobstructed escape routes?

Is the quantity of flammable material on site kept to a minimum?

Are proper storage facilities provided for LPG?

Are cylinders and containers returned to store at the end of the shift?

Is there an effective No Smoking policy?

Are gas cylinders maintained correctly?

Are adequate fire extinguishers provided?

## **Hazardous Substances**

Have all harmful materials e.g. asbestos, lead, solvents, and paints been identified?

Have suitable and sufficient risk assessments been completed?

Are adequate controls in place?

## **Noise**

Is noisy equipment fitted with silencers?

Are barriers erected to reduce the spread of noise?

Is work sequenced to minimise the number of people exposed to noise?

Are those not involved kept away from noisy operations?

Is suitable hearing protection provided and worn?

## **Electricity**

Is all electrical equipment 110 volt or lower?

Where mains voltage has to be used are RCDs provided?

Are RCDs suitably protected and inspected daily?

Are cables and leads suitably protected?

Are connections properly made and are suitable plugs used?

Is a formal inspection programme in place?

Have suitable arrangements been made for work near overhead lines?

Have underground cables been located and marked and have precautions for safe digging been taken?

## **Manual Handling**

Have suitable and sufficient assessments been completed?

Are manual handling operations kept to a minimum?

Are materials ordered in bags of 25Kg or less?

Can the handling of heavy blocks be avoided?

## **Excavations**

Is adequate and suitable support and shoring material provided?

Do work procedures remove the need for persons to work in unsupported excavations?

Are slopes and batters sufficient to prevent collapse?

Is safe access to excavation provided?

Is suitable and sufficient edge protection provided?

Are properly secured, robust vehicle stop blocks in place?

Are materials stored away from the edges of excavations?

Are excavations inspected by a competent person at the start of every shift and after any occurrence likely to have affected stability?

## **Welfare**

Have suitable and sufficient numbers of toilets been provided and are they kept clean?

Are clean washbasins, warm water, soap and towels provided?

Is suitable clothing provided for wet dirty or otherwise adverse conditions?

Are facilities provided for changing, drying and storing clothes?

Is drinking water provided?

Is a suitable area where workers can sit and make hot drinks and prepare food?

Are welfare facilities easily accessible?

## **Protective Clothing**

Has suitable PPE been provided and is it worn?

## **Protecting the Public**

Is the public fenced off or otherwise protected from site activities?

When work stops for the day:

Are site gates secured?

Is the perimeter fence secure and undamaged?

Are ladders removed?

Are excavations and openings securely fenced off?



Is plant immobilised?

Are materials safely stacked?

Are flammable and dangerous substances secured away?