

Current work in the Hub

The following new 'raising the bar' documents have been finalised:

- Loading / unloading vehicles
- Electrical safety
- Design for safety

We have also reviewed the following current raising the bar documents.

- Plant and equipment
- Traffic management entry and exit
- Man / machine interface
- Temporary safety barrier

It is expected that these documents will be published on the highways agency's website at the end of July.

Work now looks to review the following 'raising the bar' guidance documents.

- Behavioural based safety
- Caravan / temporary sleeping accommodation

- Overhead services and structures protection
- Manual handling

We welcome any constructive feedback so if you wish to get involved please send your comments to DeliveryHubInbox@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Current raising the bar guidance documents are available on the Highways Agency website:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/safety/major-projects-delivery-hub-health-safety-action-group/>

Highways Agency alerts:

HA 129 - Bitumen burns to face

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/safety/highways-agency-safety-alerts/>

HSE News

Health Inspection Initiative - One in six sites failed

Following the notification in last months briefing regarding the planned two-week blitz, a total of 560 construction sites were visited by HSE Inspectors. Of those sites 13 jobs had conditions so bad that work had to be stopped immediately, enforcement notices were also served on a further 85 sites and 107 Improvement Notices were also issued. A total of 239 health-related Notices of Contravention were served at 201 of the sites.

Inspectors concentrated on significant health risk issues, such as respiratory risks from dusts containing silica materials, exposure to other hazardous substances such as cement and lead paint, manual handling, noise and vibration.

HSE's Chief Inspector, Heather Bryant, said: "We recognise the construction sector's progress in reducing the number of people

killed and injured by its activities. "But it is clear from these figures that there is an unacceptable toll of ill-health and fatal disease in the industry. "So, to encourage the industry to treat health issues in the same way as safety, HSE's inspectors will consolidate the efforts of this initiative throughout the rest of the year by looking at the prevention and control of health risks in construction, alongside their continued assessment of the management of safety risk issues. "We will make sure the construction industry 'Thinks health' as well as safety."

For current requirements on Highways Agency sites please refer to 'Raising the Bar' Guidance Documents

[B12 Occupational health](#)

[B8 Manual handling](#)

[B18 Dust control](#)

[B19 Noise control](#)

Safety failings at M25 construction site led to worker's death

A Slough construction firm and a bulldozer operator have been sentenced for serious safety failings after a worker was run over and killed while working on the Highways Agency's M25 widening project.

The construction firm J McArdle Contracts Ltd, now in liquidation, was handed a fine of £2,000 after being found guilty of breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The judge commented on sentencing that if the company had still been trading the fine would have been £200,000.

The bulldozer operator was also found guilty of breaching Regulation 37(3) (a) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. He was given a six month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay costs of £2,500. Full details can be found here

<http://press.hse.gov.uk/2014/safety-failings-at-m25-construction-site-led-to-workers-death>

Airswab system review

The Highways Agency's Airswab system is being reviewed with a view to changing some of the functions of the system. Please send your thoughts, comments or frustrations you may have with Airswab to

wayne.mullin@highways.gsi.gov.uk

European good practice awards

The HSE are encouraging applications for the Good Practice Awards 2014–15. These awards aim to highlight leading examples of companies or organisations actively managing stress and psychosocial risks at work. Entrants must display strong commitment and a participative approach to dealing with stress. Judges will be looking for the best examples of enterprises or organisations successfully assessing, eliminating or reducing psychosocial risks and stress at work.

Entries are welcome from employers, workers and intermediaries such as social partners, safety and health professionals and practitioners, and those providing assistance and information at the workplace level. Full details can be found here

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/european/good-practice-awards.htm>

Consultation

The HSE are currently seeking views on the clarity of the proposed definitions relied upon in the draft regulations, 'The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (General duties of Self-Employed Persons) (Prescribed Undertakings) Regulations 2015' (date tbc).

The proposed regulations include definitions of activities where self-employed persons will continue to have duties under section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc

Act 1974, all others being exempt from the duty.

The change to section 3(2) to exempt certain self-employed persons from health and safety law is derived from a recommendation made by Professor Löfstedt in his report 'Reclaiming health and safety for all: an independent review of health and safety legislation.'

Full details can be found here

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd273.htm>

M1 J28-31 safety stand down

Costain held a safety stand down day on 12 May, to provide a high impact safety message focusing on a theme of behavioural safety, to the entire 350 strong site team included representatives from the Highways Agency, designers Mouchel, supply chain partners as well as direct operatives, supervisors and engineers.

The day started with a series of

presentations from the Project Management team including feedback on the recent climate survey and information about current safety trends on the site. Costain's CBS team also presented some examples of how the behavioural approach to safety works including examples of some recent successes on the M1.

The event continued with a fictional scenario played out by actors illustrating the potential impact that a serious safety failure could

have on the M1 Project – in this case an unqualified driver hitting an operative whilst driving an overladen dumper. The actors (in character) also faced questions and challenges from the floor, with some heated exchanges ensuing. The fictional scenario concluded with a courtroom scene featuring Gerard Forlin QC, a specialist Health and Safety barrister, who then went on to talk about current trends emerging from recent cases.

There was a sobering conclusion to the day as Paul Blanchard, a

construction worker paralysed from the chest down following a fall from height in 2010 spoke of his personal story and brought home the human cost that an accident at work can have.

Arun Sahni, the HA's representative on the project said "It's great to see Costain taking the initiative to promote behavioural safety on this scheme. The level of commitment and investment in the day has sent a clear message to everyone involved in the project that safety is our top priority"



Summer heat

Staying hydrated in the recent summer heat wave is crucial for maintaining physical and mental well being. To assist people to determine how hydrated they are, many sites are installing a simple urine colour chart in welfare units. When you are drinking enough water your body is in balance and your urine will be a pale straw yellow colour (hydrated).

When you have not drank enough water your kidneys try to save as much water as they can and cause your urine to be darker in colour (Dehydrated).

Below are just some of the effects of dehydration:

- Fatigue
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Painful urination

Thankfully, regaining hydration is simple. One or two cups of water will quickly give the body the water it needs and help you maintain a healthy and active life.



Congratulations

The project team on the M1 junction 39 - junction 42 Smart Motorways Project recently won the Yorkshire and Humber Constructing Excellence Health and Safety Award for their 10 steps towards zero exposure strategy which sets out to eliminate the need for workers to be on the live carriageway. This award follows similar success at the Highways Agency supply chain recognition health and safety and CIHT nationals.

Congratulations to all involved !

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If you have any enquiries about this publication email ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk or call 0300 123 5000*

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