

Dear All

Please find attached the first in a series of 'Best Practice Standards' applicable to all major projects. These standards were produced by the Delivery Hub Safety, Health and Environment action group. This is a really good initiative that aims to raise health and safety standards and performance across the portfolio and in support of our 'Aiming For Zero' objectives.

The approach Duncan Elliott and his team have taken is to:

- 1) tackle a few practices at a time,
- 2) understand the various approaches that are being adopted across our projects,
- 3) identify the best,
- 4) raise it a notch, and
- 5) share the conclusions as a revised standard for all to aspire to and ultimately follow.

So please find attached the first tranche of these best practice standards:

Best Practice Standard 1 - Plant and Equipment – This standard has been produced for a total 5 plant and equipment types, there will be more to follow, 20 have been identified in total. These first 5 cover Forward and Side Tipping Dumpers, 180 Excavators/Loaders, Mini Excavators, Tracked 360 Excavators, Wheeled 360 Excavators. These standards cover mandatory plant/operator standards, desirable requirements and risks/controls.

Best Practice Standard 2 - Traffic Management Entry/Exit – This standard is for personnel entering and exiting traffic management. It is not intended for those placing traffic management. Areas covered are; prior to entering traffic management, vehicles and plant within static closures, single carriageway stopping and parking, traffic management operatives, total closures, exiting site, emergencies and short duration stops on hard shoulders.

Best Practice Standard 3 - Man Machine Interface – This position statement stipulates the basic controls that must be in place. A review of a number of proximity sensor systems on the market has been carried out. The conclusion being that there is no single solution but the need for proximity sensors should be considered as part of the risk assessment process.

Best Practice Standard 4 - Temporary Safety Barriers – A review of temporary safety barriers (e.g Varioguard) was carried out. A position statement has been produced stipulating the elements that must be included in the risk assessment process.

So I would ask you all to consider these with your project teams and suppliers. It is up to you to agree the pace at which you drive this agenda and make these improvements. To assist you, these new standards will change the bar against which the site safety audits will be judged, so if your suppliers do get a dip in performance and haven't yet implemented these changes you will know why.

Expect a few more standards to be published in a few months time. These will focus on behavioural safety, occupational health, welfare, competence card schemes and overhead protection of structures.

The standards will be accessible to all on the portal Aiming For Zero pages by mid September. For more information regarding these standards or any ideas you may have to contribute to the team please email; DeliveryHubInbox@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Thanks

Peter Adams

Director of Major Projects

Highways Agency

01234 796661