

“Through the way we work and behave, all our people and stakeholders will be protected from risks of occupational injury or ill health.”

Our Statement of Intent for Health and Safety Policy in England

It is our intent to demonstrate an ongoing and determined commitment to improving health and safety at work throughout our organisation.

We will ensure the health and safety at work of all our people and any other people who may be affected by our work activities. We will comply with the requirements of health and safety legislation.

We will be a leader in our sector by promoting best practice and exceeding the guidance of the Health and Safety Executive and other regulatory bodies.

This policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that health and safety at work is paramount to the business, and that effective health and safety actively contributes to our success.

1. AWARENESS: “All our people and stakeholders have an awareness and understanding of health and safety hazards and risks that affect our business.”

1.1 Health and Safety Policy statement

Adequate resources will be provided to ensure all our people, the sub-contractors and stakeholders are aware of this policy and committed to its effective implementation.

1.2 Communication and consultation

There will be active open communication and consultation between all our people, the sub-contractors and stakeholders. Health and safety will be integrated into our communications, wherever appropriate.

1.3 Management roles and responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities for health and safety will be defined, as necessary, within job descriptions or profiles. Senior management will ensure that:

- adequate resources are provided for health and safety;
- health and safety is adequately assessed, controlled and monitored;
- and our people are actively involved on matters that affect health and safety.

1.4 Hazard identification

We will identify our workplace health and safety hazards.

We will inform our people, the sub-contractors and stakeholders, as appropriate, of these workplace hazards.

We will require our sub-contractors and stakeholders to identify health and safety hazards that may impact on our work activities.

2. COMPETENCE: “All our people and stakeholders have the competence to undertake their work with minimum risks to health and safety.”

2.1 Health and safety training

All our people will be adequately instructed and trained on the health and safety issues that affect them, and the safe working practices that should be followed.

We will ensure the health and safety competence of our sub-contractors and stakeholders.

2.2 Behaviour and culture

Senior management will demonstrate leadership in health and safety.

Senior management will question to ensure that health and safety issues are identified, assessed and managed during visits to places we work from.

Systems will be in place and people will be empowered to raise health and safety concerns with management.

2.3 Risk assessment and management

We will assess the risks associated with health and safety hazards in the workplace. All our people will be informed of the health and safety hazards and risks that affect their work.

We will take action to prevent, reduce or control risks to an acceptable level and reduce the potential for incidents and accidents.

3. COMPLIANCE: “Our work activities achieve compliance with legislation, and our people are empowered to take action to minimise health and safety risks.”

3.1 Incident investigation

We will report and investigate accidents, incidents and near misses to drive improvement in our health and safety management. Any lessons learned from such events will be used to take corrective action to prevent recurrences.

3.2 Measuring performance

We will actively and openly, review and report on our health and safety performance against published objectives and targets. Improvement plans will be developed to support the delivery of these objectives and targets.

3.3 Health and safety management system

We will implement management systems to ensure we:

- comply with health and safety legislation;
- and continually improve our health and safety performance.

4. EXCELLENCE: “We want Forestry Commission England to be recognised for excellence in the way it manages health and safety.”

4.1 Developing innovative practices

We will constantly encourage, develop, review and share “health and safety good practice” both internally and externally.

4.2 Influencing stakeholders

We will only work with joint venture partners, companies and contractors who are willing to meet and achieve our health and safety expectations.

We will engage and influence stakeholders to drive improvements in health and safety and play an active role in FISA.

4.3 Work-related health

We will assess our occupational health risks. All our people will be informed of the occupational health risks that affect their work. We will take action to prevent, reduce or control occupational health risks to an acceptable level and reduce the potential for ill health, including assessing all our people’s fitness for work. Health surveillance will be conducted to satisfy health and safety legislation.

Delivering our policy

Our policy will be delivered by:

- generating a culture that does not tolerate threats to health and safety;
- and ensuring the real involvement of all our people, the sub-contractors and stakeholders.

Our National Office, Forest Districts and Area Offices will implement Health and Safety management statements that explain how this policy will be delivered in the workplace.

Policy review

This policy has immediate effect and replaces all previous versions. This policy will be reviewed and amended, as necessary.

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