

Highlands and Islands Construction Safety Forum

Chairman: Neil Wallace, The Highland Council Vice Chair: Ian Henderson, Tulloch Homes
Secretary: Christina Chisholm, Chisholms (Willowbank) Ltd HSE: Peter Black

BULLETIN

Further to the meeting of the Highlands and Islands Safety Forum on Monday 13th September 2010 at 3pm at Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness, the following was noted. Neil Wallace, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting (approximately 36 attendees) and thanked our hosts, Safety, Welding and Lifting (International) Ltd.

Presentation – David Wilson, Sales & Marketing Manager from Safety, Welding & Lifting (International) Ltd who gave a brief history of the company and described the range of services they offer including for the following industries : construction, nuclear power, on/off shore wind generation, engineering and fabrication, oil and gas, heavy crane and haulage. Of particular interest to the construction industry, in terms of satisfying regulations which require lifting equipment to be inspected at regular intervals, is their new WEBCERT facility which is a free service available to their Clients enabling all equipment inspection certificates to be electronically retained on their website and accessed by Clients using a User name and Password. Certificates can be printed when required and certificates from other testing companies can be added for a small fee. A monthly e-mail reminder system alerts the Client to warn that inspections are falling due. The facility avoids the problems which arise through loss of certificates and human error in failing to arrange inspections, especially when equipment on different sites is due for inspection at different times.

HSE Information - Peter Black, HSE

Attention was drawn to the following:-

- The Control of Silica Risks associated with cutting of concrete and clay roof tiles and single-lap artificial slates (SIM02/2010/01) available on website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/construction/021001.htm?ebul=cons/jun10&cr=21>
- BS5973:1993, relating to tube & fitting scaffold, is to be formally withdrawn by the end of January 2010. The scaffold industry is to be conforming to European Standard BS EN12811-1:2003 by the end of 2010. See http://www.nasc.org.uk/TG20_launch
- There have been a few serious trapping & crushing accidents recently when using MEWPs – see website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/workplatforms.htm?ebul=cons/jul10&cr=2>
- <http://www.cpa.uk.net/p/MEWPS-and-Overhead-Crushing/>
- Visibility for operators of telehandlers SIM 05/2010/03, available on website. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/cactus/051003.htm?ebul=cons/jul10&cr=4>
- Power point presentations for small builders “Busy Builder” series, available on website. Links are at bottom of linked webpage <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/areyou/builder.htm?ebul=cons/aug10&cr=1>
- Red, Amber & Green lists – refers to procedures, products etc. to be eliminated, avoided or encouraged, see website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/hse-rag.pdf?ebul=cons/aug10&cr=8>
- An Architect has been (unusually) prosecuted under Regulations 13 & 14 of the CDM Regulations 1994, where inadequate recognition of risks to maintenance workers had caused a fatality, see website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2010/coi-sw-739sww09.htm>
- The Government’s Lord Young review is expected shortly to recommend restrictions advertising by claim management companies to reduce spurious claims and “ambulance chasing” mentality. Some legislation is expected to be repealed as a consequence.
- Accreditation of H&S Consultants : a voluntary register is to be formed which will be publicly available. The first people expected to be registered are those of Chartered status with a H&S degree level qualification, broad practical experience and continuing CPD commitment.
- On his local travels out and about this summer Peter noted the following unacceptable practices : blocked fire escape in timber framed building under construction, unsafe scaffold, woodworking machinery without dust-collection accessories (all wood dust is now considered carcinogenic), lack

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of guard rails to sides of open staircases (can be removed when loading materials, but only briefly), welfare facilities used for storage, excavator without any mirrors, non integrated platforms, telehandler & manbasket without controls in basket and with no ability to lock off tilt mechanism (Guidance Note PM28 refers) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/pm28.pdf>

Safety Forum Information

Two future topics for presentations have been suggested : (1) Lone workers (2) Scaffolding.

Please advise Jenny or Teri if you would like these or any other topics covered.

The Forum now has a page on the new HCTG website. Please send items for inclusion to Jenny or Teri.

Presentation – CSCS Update, Gordon Jenkins, Scheme Manager, CSCS

Smart Cards have been issued since January 2010. They contain a microchip and have been developed to help avoid fraud. Old cards are not invalid but will be replaced by the Smart Card when they expire. Information held on the chip (only information shown on card is stored on it) can also be linked to the employer's web based training records etc. but an App requires to be purchased to do this and a card reader is needed. For full information go to www.cscsmartcard.co.uk.

The cards have now been redesigned. The 30 days or less on site rule relating to the Professionally Qualified Person card has now been removed. A Graduate Card is now available, and the Platinum and Black cards have been merged. There are a number of websites using 'cscs' in their addresses which have been fraudulently offering cscs cards for a fee. There is now a 'Profiled Route' to gaining a CSCS card for Construction Site Supervisors and Managers with considerable experience but no/the incorrect category of CSCS card and where membership of a Professional Body and/or NVQ is not realistic. The Applicant completes an "Evidence Sheet" in agreement with and signed off by his Line Manager. This is then reviewed by an appropriately qualified reviewer, and once the Evidence Sheet has been passed as acceptable it will be audited by CSCS, whereupon a Gold or Black card may be issued. For further information visit www.cscs.uk.com/profiled route.

Sharing Good Practice/Information from other safety groups

Neil advised that all were invited to take part in an open forum on CDM 2007 in Glasgow on 13th October – please see HSE website for details.

Question & Answer Session - Peter Black, HSE

Q. If using a proper man riding basket attached to fork lift truck forks, must this be controlled by the man in the basket or can it be controlled by the FLT operator?

A. The person in the basket must have overall control of the plant (see HSE Guidance Notes PM28 Working Platforms (Non Integrated) on Forklift Trucks)
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/pm28.pdf>

Q. Does a JCB training ticket mean they are qualified to use it as a FLT?

A. It depends on the type of JCB. For the usual Sitemaster type machine, evidence of a normal JCB training ticket is adequate. However the operator must be fully trained in the plant and any attachments fitted to it, and should be able to prove this.

Q. Is a reversing horn mandatory for wheeled plant?

A. No. There is however HSE guidance available in The Safe Use of Vehicles on Construction Sites HSG144 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg144.pdf> which sets out a hierarchy of control of a reversing vehicle on pages 18 & 19. It will be seen that the reversing horn is low down this hierarchy, but can still be useful. There are directional devices available to reduce noise levels in surrounding areas if that is an issue.

Q. Do mobile generators require a test, similar to PAT testing? If they do, can we have details of what is required?

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A. This depends on the size of the generator, although in general all require to be properly serviced and maintained. Smaller ones where the windings are not connected to the frame will not require any form of testing but larger ones will require earth loop impedance testing if they are “referenced” and there is a connection between the windings and the frame.

Q. As a manager for a small company I am continually asking for suitable courses to be set up to allow our scaffolders to erect scaffold up to 7m high. I have been looking into this in great depth and find that there are no courses available. We have to get some form of leeway to allow us to build gables of 1.5 storey buildings with chimneys of gables. I have spoken to the H&S Consultants who inspect our jobs and they don’t seem to be able to come up with an answer.

A. There are no suitable short courses for this height and therefore a qualified scaffolder will need to be employed to do this. Even if they attended a CISRS Base course this only allows non-designed scaffold erection up to 6m. If a scaffold up to 7m is to be erected for a timber framed building it will need a designed buttress unless full details are included in the system user manual. The situation on designs is contained within the Scaffold Checklist at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/scaffoldinginfo.htm>

Q. Is the HCTG 2 day Scaffold Inspection Course still adequate for a site agent, holding the qualification to be deemed as competent, to inspect all types and sizes of scaffold on site?

A. It is adequate to inspect non designed system scaffold, but not those that have been designed.(see link in previous question)

Next Meeting

To be advised