



STEEL INDUSTRY
GUIDANCE NOTES

Health and Safety on Site

Construction sites can be dangerous places and therefore it is extremely important that you comply with the site rules. This guidance note has been prepared to help you understand some of the health and safety rules and procedures that apply to construction sites.

1. Signing in

Whenever you arrive on a site you should make yourself known to the reception or security and sign a register (if available). This register could be the only record of your presence on site and will prove to be very useful as a checklist should the site need to be evacuated. It is also very important to sign out when you leave site.

2. Emergency arrangements

The emergency response action must be explained to you. This should include details on how to gain first aid response, if necessary, and where to present yourself if you are required to evacuate from part of the site. If you are unfortunate and suffer an accident you should always report any injuries you sustain as soon as you are able to and complete the appropriate accident reporting book/record.

3. Personal Protective Equipment

On entry to the site any specific Personal Protective Equipment requirements should be explained and it is both your responsibility and the responsibility of the site operator to ensure you wear the appropriate protection.

4. Access routes and site traffic

All access routes must be in good condition, clearly marked and segregated from site traffic. If you are driving onto the site remember that site plant have the right of way.



5. Signs and barriers

Signs and barriers will be used to warn you of specific hazard. Some barriers will be fixed and others temporary. This means that if a barrier blocks your usual route you should find an alternative route – do not breach the barrier unless you have been given a clear instruction to do so.



6. Welfare facilities

Good quality and well maintained welfare facilities will need to be made available on site and their location should make them easily accessible. The facilities should be separate for male and females and sufficient numbers for those on site.

7. Noise

Noise levels can change suddenly on most sites so always be prepared to wear hearing protection even if you are only visiting for a short period. Noise can cause damage to your hearing and cause other problems such as unusual mood swings or sleeping problems. A rule of thumb is if you need to raise your voice to hold a conversation then protection should be worn.

8. Hazardous substances

Hazardous substances are not always properly marked or easily identified so do not examine the contents of containers by touching, smelling or tasting. This may sound obvious but people do like to check the contents of unmarked containers.

9. Plant awareness

Heavy plant and vehicles such as cranes, forklift trucks and dumper trucks are regularly operating on sites so always ensure you are visible to the operators by wearing high visibility clothing and position yourself so that you are not in a potential trap zone if the vehicle moves suddenly.

10. Protection of the public

Access points should always be secured and boundary fences kept well maintained to protect members of the public from accidentally wandering onto the site. They should also prevent illegal entry of unwanted visitors, especially children during school holiday periods.

Key Points

1. Signing In/Out
 - Sign the register on arrival
 - Remember to sign out when you leave site
2. Emergency Arrangements
 - Find out the emergency arrangements
 - Report any accidents or incidents
3. Personal Protective Equipment
 - Wear the appropriate PPE
 - Follow the local site rules
4. Access Routes and site traffic
 - Should be clearly marked
 - Well maintained
 - Segregated from pedestrian routes
 - Will have right of way
5. Signs and Barriers
 - Must be observed
 - Do not breach barriers
6. Welfare facilities
 - Well maintained
 - Easily accessible
 - Sufficient numbers
7. Noise
 - Protection must be worn in designated areas
 - Blue noise signs are mandatory
 - Damage to your hearing cannot be repaired
8. Hazardous Substances
 - Kept in container and clearly marked
 - Do not smell, touch or taste unknown substances
9. Plant Awareness
 - Keep within sight of the operator
 - Do not stand in an area you could be trapped
 - Wear high visibility clothing
10. Protection of the Public
 - Keep all gates and fences secure
 - Remove keys from plant & vehicles
 - Prevent unwanted access especially to children

Further sources of Information

Further information on construction site safety can be found on the Health and Safety Executive web site www.hse.gov.uk by looking under Publications, free leaflets and then construction.