



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SOME SOUND NEW YEAR ADVICE

Awareness about mental health is moving up the agenda across the construction industry. AGA considers the value of the trend for mindfulness and sets out our top tips for a brighter year ahead...

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Site Manager FAQ's

I think everyone now is well aware that mental health is major issue for the construction industry – just as it is in our wider society.

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Incompetent Site Manager Fine

But it's not something new. Mental health was first recognised as an issue by the World Health Organisation (WHO) back in 1948. Yes! that's over 70 years ago. So, it does beg the question, "why has it taken so long to gain the importance it now has in the workplace?"

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Incompetently Managed Site
Shut Down

It is certainly a tricky subject to tackle. Much is talked about what we can do for others but, in the first instance, perhaps we need to think about how we can help ourselves. When we open up to talk about mental health, the best place to start is by looking at our own wellbeing because, if we are not in a good place ourselves, it can be much more difficult to help anyone else.

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Winter Driving Advice

Safety Innovations

So, here are our five SOUND steps to stay healthy in mind as well as body:
Strengthen – spend time on connections with friends, family and other people
Openhearted – be kind to yourself and generous with others
Upskill - learn something new or share your skills and knowledge
Nurture – take care of your physical self
Do things now - concentrate on today, not the regrets of yesterday or the worries of tomorrow!

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E-Learning & CDM Advice

SITE MANAGER FAQs

What is a Site Manager?

Site managers, also known as construction managers, are responsible for supervising construction sites and running construction projects.

What does a Site Manager do?

- Supervising and overseeing the direction of the project (or a package), ensuring that the client's specifications and requirements are met
- Liaising with the client, other construction professionals and, sometimes, members of the public
- Coordinating and supervising construction workers
- Selecting tools and materials
- Making safety inspections and ensuring construction and site safety
- Checking and preparing site reports, designs and drawings
- Maintaining quality control procedures
- Finding ways to prevent problems and to solve any that crop up
- Assessing and minimising risk
- Writing reports and keeping on top of paperwork



What Qualifications are needed to become a Site Manager?

To become a competent Site Manager a good level of Skills, Knowledge and Experience is required.

All Site Managers should hold the SMSTS Qualification along with First Aid at Work. The SMSTS is a five-day course and can be delivered on a weekly or day release basis.

The SMSTS looks at the regulations and laws surrounding construction management and how to work within HSE's good practice and covers all the health & safety aspects of that specific role. The CITB has tailored the course for new managers who need to understand their responsibilities when supervising a site.

They should have skills within the field of Construction, to enable them to understand all of the processes taking place on the construction site.

The Site Manager should also have a good amount of practical experience by starting as a trainee or assistant site manager to gain a full understanding of the role.

What does the law say?

A contractor who employs workers or manages workers under their control must ensure that appropriate supervision is provided. The level of supervision provided will depend on the risks to health and safety involved, and the skills, knowledge, training and experience of the workers concerned.

Supervisors are a vital part of effective management arrangements. Effective supervisors are those who have the skills, knowledge, training, experience and leadership qualities to suit the job in hand. Good communication and people management skills on site are important qualities for supervisors. Where site workers are promoted to a supervisory role, they should be provided with nationally recognised site supervisor training which includes leadership and communication skills.

The role of the supervisor may include team leading, briefing and carrying out toolbox talks. It may also include coaching and encouragement of individual workers and supporting other formal and informal means of engaging with workers. The supervisor has a particularly important part to play as a front-line decision maker in emergencies or when workers on site face immediate risks that may require work to stop.

INCOMPETENT SITE MANAGER FINE

Incompetent site manager lands director with suspended jail sentence

Between May 2018 and February 2019, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out a series of inspections at a construction site in South Woodford in London, after safety concerns were raised. During the inspections, the site manager and company director Tahir Ahmed was served with two prohibition notices and his company, All Type Electrical and Building, was served with two prohibition notices and two improvement notices.

One of the improvement notices, the HSE told IOSH Magazine, was served on 24 September 2018 with a compliance date of 30 November 2018 to ascertain competent advice. No request was made to extend the notice, and no evidence of an attempt to comply with the notice was ever received.

Ahmed, the Director of All Type Electrical and Building who was running the site, had not received site manager training, the HSE confirmed. "We believe he had never received such training as he did not produce any training certification and he pleaded guilty to the breach," the regulator told us.

At Westminster Magistrates' Court, All Type Electrical and Building pleaded guilty to breaching reg 15(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, which states: "You have not employed or appointed a person to supervise or manage construction work who has the necessary training to carry out the tasks allocated to that person in a manner that secures the health and safety of any person working on the construction site".

The firm also pleaded guilty to contravening s 21 of the Health and Safety at Work Act for failing to comply with an enforcement notice. The company was ordered to pay a £60,000 fine plus full costs of £5,216.

Ahmed also admitted breaching s 21 of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was sentenced to 18 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months, 180 hours of unpaid work, plus full costs of £5,060.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector David King said: "This case highlights the need for suitable and sufficient planning, managing and monitoring, using the appropriate work at height equipment and having a competent site manager.

"Dutyholders should be aware that the HSE will hold to account those who do not comply with health and safety legislation, or who do not comply with enforcement notices served on them."



HSE SHUT DOWN INCOMPETENTLY MANAGED SITE AFTER BLOCK FALL

[Altin Homes, the Property Developer fined £40,000 after a stack of building blocks collapsed at a residential development site, failed to ensure there was competent management at a Cheshire site it controlled](#)

Altin Homes was leading the construction works at a former petrol station in Altrincham. On 16 June 2014 a stack of building blocks collapsed and fell through timber hoarding onto Woodlands Road.

A member of the public reported the incident to the police at 9.20pm. The police contacted the local authority which notified the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after deploying an emergency clean-up team.



Two days after the incident was first reported, HSE Inspector Matt Greenly visited the site. He found the hoarding had been replaced and palletised building blocks stored behind it. Some of the building blocks had not been stacked squarely on the wooden pallets, some pallets were weak and near collapse and others were on uneven ground.

These poorly stored blocks were at risk of crashing through the hoarding again and Greenly told Altin Homes to move them immediately. He served the company with two prohibition notices, two improvement notices and a notification of contravention.

“The prohibition notices were for the scaffolding and working at height on unguarded trestles,” said Greenly. “One improvement notice was served

because the scaffolding hadn’t been inspected and was showing signs of collapse and there was an improvement notice for welfare because there was no hot water on site.”

Greenly returned to the site two weeks later and, although Altin Homes had satisfactorily dealt with the scaffold inspection and welfare issues, the unsafely stored blocks had not been removed. He served a prohibition notice stopping all work due to lack of competency and the site was temporarily closed.

“The site wasn’t being well managed,” explained Greenly. “It transpired that the site managers had little or no experience of construction work. It was deemed that they didn’t have the competencies to run that site. Construction firms have all the correct equipment to make level ground and to make it solid. In this instance they either chose not to or didn’t understand the requirement to and that’s what led to the incident.”

Altin Homes made the site safe and work resumed six weeks after it was closed down.

In Trafford Magistrates’ Court, the company pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was fined £20,000 for each charge. It also pleaded guilty to failures under Regulation 22(1)(a) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 but there was no separate penalty under this charge. It was ordered to pay costs of £3,000.

The judge did not apply the new sentencing guidelines, which came into effect on 1 February for health and safety offences, corporate manslaughter and food offences and the company was not committed to the Crown Court for sentencing as recognition of its early guilty plea.



WINTER DRIVING ADVICE

Make sure you and your employees are prepared for severe weather



Highways England, which is responsible for the country's motorways and major A roads, has issued advice to motorists on coping with wintry weather conditions.

In snow and ice drivers should stick to the main roads where possible and only travel if necessary. Drivers are also encouraged to make sure they have a winter kit in their vehicle, including an ice scraper and de-icer, warm clothes and blankets and sunglasses.

In high winds drivers should slow down and avoid using exposed sections of road if possible, lorries, caravans and motorbikes are at particular risk.

In heavy rain drivers should keep well back from the vehicle in front, gradually ease off the accelerator if the steering becomes unresponsive, and slow down if the rain and spray from vehicles makes it difficult to see and be seen.

In fog drivers should switch on their fog lights and not use lights on full beam as the fog will reflect the light back. If drivers really cannot see, they should consider stopping until it is safe to continue.

SAFETY INNOVATIONS

Boltless Trapezoidal Tunnel Lining

The Carnwath Road Riverside tunnelling team have pioneered the design and use of a boltless trapezoidal tunnel lining. The design eliminates associated HAVS exposure for ring building operatives.

Operatives no longer have to reach and stretch to get to bolt pockets with heavy spanners thus reducing manual handling risks. Noise levels are reduced which aids essential communication during ring building in a hazardous environment. Productivity is increased with shorter build times achievable. The built rings also show no signs of cracking and provide a high-quality finished lining.

As a result, tunnelling productivity is increased, durability is improved, and the material costs are reduced.



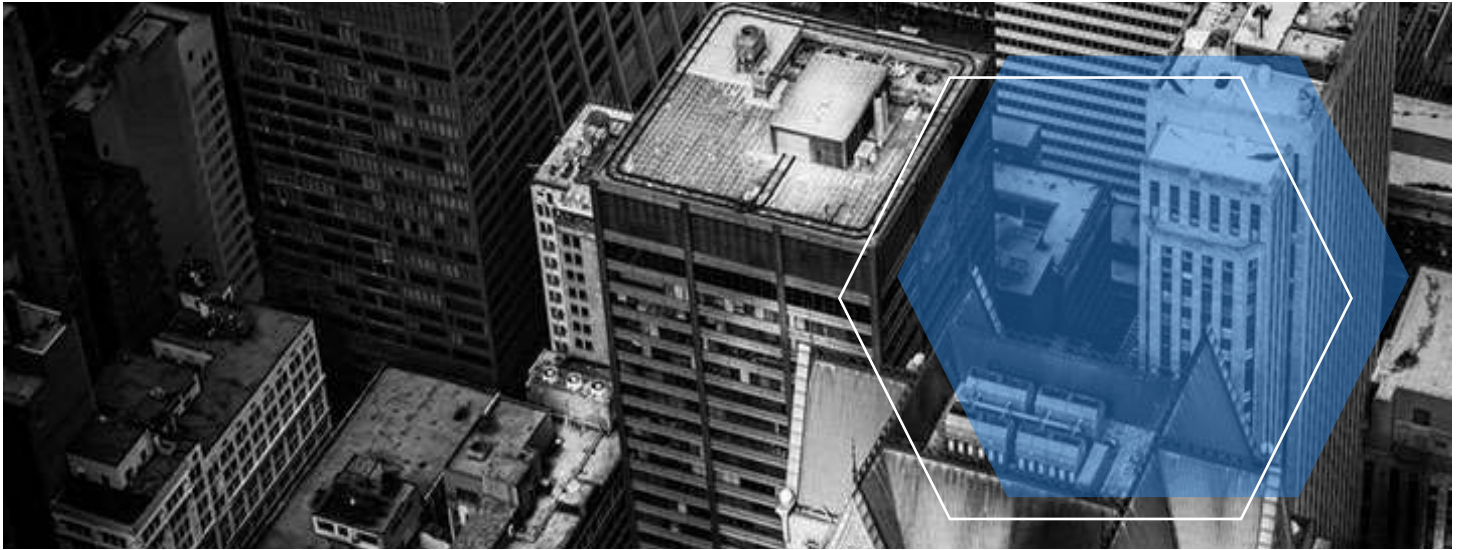
Permit Indicating Hi-Visibility Vests for workers

Contractor McCarthy & Stone often give out permits for various tasks. In order to determine who has been properly briefed, the site has procured company branded hi-vis waistcoats carrying the wording "I have the _____ permit".

These are handed out by the Site Manager at the time of issuing the permit and returned upon completion of the works or at the end of the working day.

Visual Quick Hitch Indicator

Quick hitch systems generally have an automated alarm to identify when a bucket is in place. Galliford Try Infrastructure in Derbyshire are trialing a system which uses LED lights on the boom to provide a visual indication of when a bucket is hitched. Together both the audible and visual indicators provide further assurance that the bucket is safely connected to the machine.



E-LEARNING

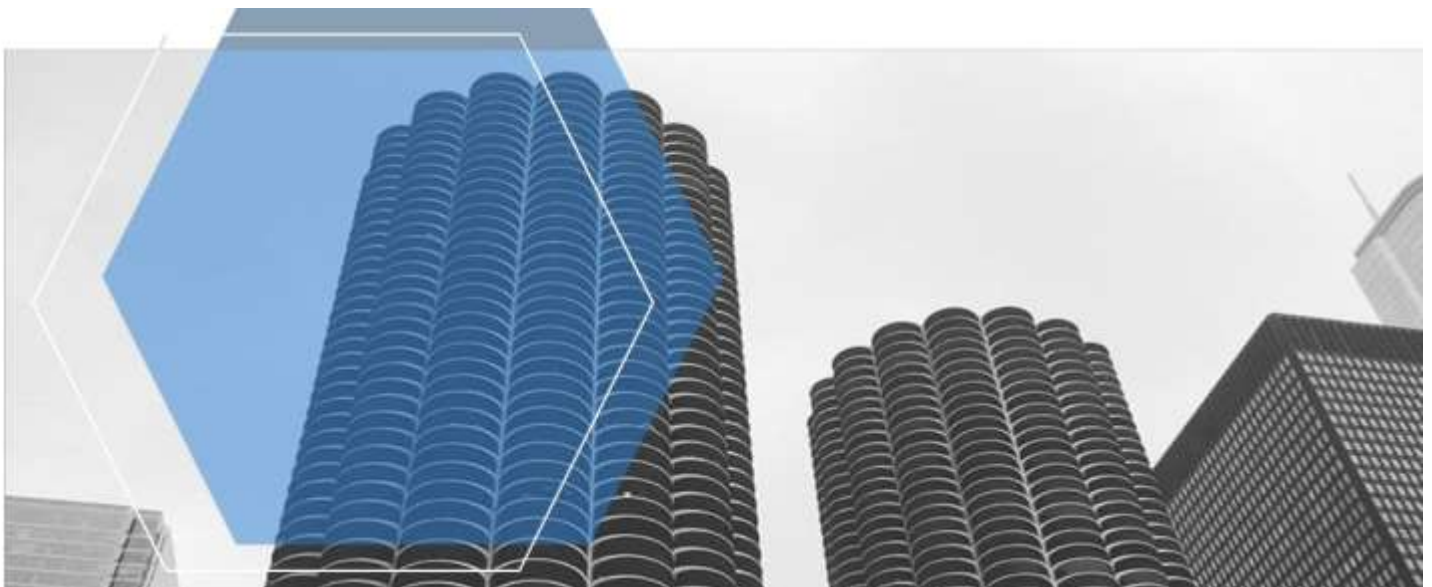
[CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR WHOLE RANGE OF NEW ONLINE COURSES](#)

Whether you're looking to improve your own knowledge, or provide training to employees, AGA Ltd's new e-Learning portal will allow you to book easy to follow e-learning courses in a number of areas. Each course is followed by a short test to clarify your understanding regarding that topic, which after successful completion, you will be issued with a certificate. Get up to date, specialist training in Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, Fall Prevention, the Construction Design & Management Regulations 2015, Risk Assessments Manual Handling, Fire Safety and many more.

FREE CDM ADVICE

[CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL](#)

Do you need help understanding the CDM Regulations 2015? Not sure if you are complying with your duties correctly? We offer a free CPD consultation to keep you up to date. One of our experienced CDM Consultants will attend your offices or a location of your choosing and provide up to the minute, competent advice. We cover everything from Duty Holders to Design Risk Management and welcome any questions or scenarios you need help with. Please get in touch if this would be of interest to you.





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