

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

BEFORE you start work on site:



- Have you signed in?
- Have you had a site induction?
- Have you read and signed the RAMS for your work on this site?
- Are you wearing the necessary PPE?
- Have you carried out pre-use checks on the plant or equipment you are about to use?

If the answer to any of the above is “no”, DO NOT START WORK until you can tick all the boxes

Face Fit Testing

- If face masks are not worn correctly they will not protect you!
- Face fit tests check the fit of the mask and how well it seals
- If you are not clean-shaven, your mask will be ineffective for work and for the face fit test. Inform your employer if you have an unavoidable reason for not being clean-shaven at work
- Testing must be carried out by a competent person and a certificate produced
- A test is required for each make of mask you use and is valid for up to 5 years unless your facial features change significantly
- If you use a mask and haven't been tested, tell your Supervisor
- Site Supervisors and Foremen are responsible for ensuring that workers under their control wear all necessary PPE correctly

Water Pollution - Silt

- Silt is the term used for very fine particles of soil. Silt mixed with water in the form of mud, can be washed off construction sites into nearby watercourses and drains
- Pollution by silt can be caused by: rainwater run-off from uncovered areas of site; excavation pumping out and dewatering; tunnelling operations; cleaning ditches and drains.



- **Environmental harm:** High levels of silt suspended in water can suffocate fish by blocking their gills, can remove essential oxygen from the water and can kill plants, animals and insects living in the water by stopping sunlight reaching them.
- Silt often combines with other contaminants such as oils and chemicals potentially causing greater pollution than silt alone.
- **Prosecution:** Because of the potential for harm, it is illegal to allow silt to enter a watercourse or drain. Silt pollution spoils the appearance of watercourses, is easily traceable to the site from where it originated and, in the past, has been a major cause of prosecution.

WHAT TO DO:

- Only discharge silty water into designated settlement systems
- Check that site drainage and settlement systems are working - discoloration may indicate high pollutant loading
- Stop pumping and contact site manager if you are concerned
- Keep all hardstanding areas clean – notify site manager if an area is silty or covered in mud
- Inform site manager straightaway if you see silty water entering a watercourse or drain and try to stop or divert it eg with sand bags
- Remember discharge consent may be required
- For further guidance on consents and pollution prevention contact the relevant regulator

DO NOT:

- dewater any excavation without permission
- pump silty water directly into rivers, ditches or surface water drains
- strip land of vegetation unless it is absolutely necessary – vegetation reduces silt run-off
- store soil, stone or similar materials within 10m of watercourses or drains
- dig a grip to release ponded water to a watercourse or drain