

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Plant and Equipment Basic Rules

1. Always follow manufacturers' instructions and use as intended – Are these the right tools for the job?



2. Consider risks to others nearby when operating plant and equipment.

3. Plant and equipment should only be used or repaired by trained, authorised people

Mobile Plant and Equipment

- Do not carry passengers unless the plant is designed to do so.
- Observe site speed limits and one-way systems. Obtain assistance when reversing.
- Carry out daily checks e.g. brakes, oil, lights and tyres.
- Be cautious when handling rear-wheel steer and centre-pivoting plant.
- Use stop-blocks to prevent over-running.
- When parked, ensure parking brake is on, and chock wheels if necessary.

Static Plant and Equipment

- Includes plant which can be moved but remains in one place during use.
- If fitted with wheels, ensure brakes are on or wheels are securely chocked.
- If engine-driven, ensure exhaust gases cannot accumulate.
- If electric-powered, ensure supply cable and plug is not and cannot be damaged.
- Ensure all guards are in position.
- Consider need for barriers to protect others.

Tree Protection

- Trees and hedgerows provide vitally important wildlife habitat and many are protected by law.
- **Environmental harm:** During certain times of the year trees and hedgerows may contain nesting birds. Nesting birds are protected by law against disturbance under Wildlife and Countryside Act.
- **Prosecution:** It is illegal to cut down trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order, to grub up certain countryside hedges, or to disturb nesting birds.
- **Safety:** Damaged trees may become unstable and be potential hazards.

WHAT TO DO:

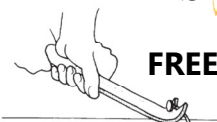
- Check with site manager before removing any trees or hedgerows.
- Only clear vegetation as site manager instructs.
- Check for nesting birds and if any are found, stop work and inform site manager immediately.
- Ask site manager what protection is required for the trees and hedgerows on your site.
- Check with site manager before excavating near trees and hedgerows.
- Seek advice before cutting trees or hedgerows between the start of February and end of August.

DO NOT:

- Undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance during bird nesting season (Feb to Aug).
- Undertake any works to, or near to, trees without site manager's authorisation.
- Track vehicles or plant over tree protection areas.
- Store materials, especially fuels and oils under or near trees.

Site Cleanliness & Site Security

It's a **LEGAL REQUIREMENT** to keep construction sites (however large or small):



The CDM Regulations 2015 (Reg. 18) specifically require sites to:

- Be kept in good order.
- Be kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness.
- Be fenced off, with site perimeter identified by suitable signs.

And state that if nails (or similar sharp object) may be of danger to any person, no timber or other material projecting nails (or similar sharp object) must be used in any construction work or be allowed to remain.