



Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

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Newsletter

March 2014

Monthly Meeting 10th March 2014

Neil Boon, BHSEA Construction Sub-Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to today's meeting and, in particular, to new Members attending for the first time:

- Phil and John Grigg from Radmoor Training
- Simon Reece from Dudley Council
- Rob Carlin and David Jenkins from Wolverhampton City Council and
- Bal Sahota.

Neil asked those present to continue to promote the benefits of being a BHSEA to colleagues and contacts in order to increase the membership.

Apologies were received from Tim Prestage, Gerry Mulholland, Tony Hall and Mike Webb.

Neil then introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Mr Ray Johnson, Joint Managing Director of Safety Access Limited, which has been in existence for 23 years. The Company is a Health and Safety Training Consultancy specialising in scaffolding and working at height, with offices in Nottingham and also overseas in South Korea and Dubai.

(Don't forget to check BHSEA website www.bhsea.org.uk for the slides/notes covering today's presentations).



'Scaffolding
Safety Update
(including NASC
TG20:13)'

Ray Johnson BSc, Joint Managing Director, Safety & Access Ltd.

Ray began by explaining that his presentation today would outline the format of the new scaffolding standard and the key benefits and differences over the current Standard. Ray warned that the scaffolding industry is about to undergo the biggest change in working practice in 25 years, with the current Standard, TG20:08, being replaced by TG20:13 with effect from 1 July 2014. The new Standard is fully supported by the UK Contractors Group.

Ray went on to show a number of slides illustrating bad working practices, (photographs are on BHSEA website www.bhsea.org.uk), including examples of poorly erected scaffold installations and instances of workers cutting corners to save time. There were some instances of workers not wearing PPE, and situations where the scaffold offered inadequate protection due to missing guardrails. Some examples illustrated a scant regard for the protection of pedestrians or road users in close proximity to the site. Quite worryingly, there was a slide showing a scaffold company's MD setting a very bad example to his workers by his dangerous actions whilst working at height.

The **Standard SG4:10 'Preventing Falls in Scaffolding'** came out in 2000. Ray advised that SG4 is the first document that employers and clients should consult when employing or supervising scaffolders. The Standard includes the requirement to work on a fully boarded platform with double guardrails and covers the wearing and use of appropriate PPE.

Safe Zone

The Safe Zone is a platform of four boards with a guardrail. Workers should wear a harness at all times and be clipped on within 1 metre of the unprotected edge. Scaffolders must work from the ground level up. The guardrails must be installed before the platform. A point to always remember is that collective fall protection must take precedence over personal fall protection.

Training

Scaffolding construction workers should be trained to CISRS/PASMA Standards at either the Basic or the Advanced Level:

- **Basic Level:** Ray explained that 80% of jobs could be carried out by an Operative trained to Basic Level.
- **Advanced Level:** An advanced scaffolder would be required for specialised scaffolding erection.

Trainees and the scaffolders' labourers must always work under supervision. Ray added that his own organisation will be running courses from 1 July.

Types of Scaffold

There are two types of scaffold:

- **System Scaffold:** Which has its own training scheme: System Scaffold

Product Training Scheme (SSPTS), which covers the basic and supervisor levels and

- Tube and Fit Scaffold:

Workers must be qualified for whichever scaffold type they are using.

George Allcock asked whether SSPTS is a competence card. Ray explained that it is essentially a CSCS type card which requires 4 weeks training and an NVQ level 2 or 3.

There is a Scaffold Inspection Course – currently two days for the basic operative and three days for the advanced operative. After 1 July 2014 the basic course will be extended to three days.

Key causes of accidents

- Poor design
- Poor construction
- Poor quality materials
- Etc. etc. (see www.bhsea.org.uk)

European Standard 12811

One of the biggest problems is in scaffold design, and even when the scaffold is designed, it doesn't necessarily translate into practice. Of course, where a Principal Contractor is appointed, that person should be making sure that the design is put into practice.

The original design standard, BS5973, was written in 1982, and was withdrawn in 2004 and replaced by 12811. 12811 is a European Standard, which didn't say much (in Ray's opinion). It is written in 'Euro Speak' and is highly technical. It was written for the European market, which generally uses the System Scaffold. This Standard was less appropriate for the Tube and Fit type, which is commonly used in the UK.

TG20:08 Technical Guidance on the Use of BS EN 12811-1

TG20:08 required scaffold designers to do intricate calculations for the wind loads and there were complex tables used for calculating maximum heights. Many directors consequently demanded that everything be designed.

However, the big problem with design is that in a number of cases, the scaffolder does not have access to the design or interprets the design incorrectly. Often site agents will not manage the project properly or check that the scaffold matches the design.

The Principal Contractor, if there is one, will make sure that the design is put into practice. The necessary expertise may have to be bought in if not available in-house. TG20:08 will be withdrawn in July.

TG20:13 'A Comprehensive Guide to Good Practice for Tube and Fitting Scaffolding'

We now have TG20:13 and this represents a complete sea change. It offers a detailed explanation with clear diagrams and examples of scaffolding types. TG20:13 consists of a number of books and some software. Including:

- a) Operational Guide
- b) Design Guide

- c) E-Guide, including software which takes the compliance sheets a bit further
- d) User Guide for the individual scaffolder or those managing the site

Ray explained that the new Guides, which have been produced in conjunction with the HSE, cost £600,000 to develop. He added that whilst the set of Guides is a costly outlay for those in the scaffolding industry, (at around £1000 for the complete set), they are nevertheless far clearer, comprehensive, informative and relevant than the previous guidelines. Ray advised that once a complete set is purchased, then it will be possible to order copies of the individual components separately. Companies will have to purchase the whole suite of Guides. It is intended that the Standard will remain valid for at least five years.

Compliance Sheets

There are various Compliance Sheets for different types of scaffold. The Compliance Sheets will enable any scaffold to be erected up to 60 metres high without the need for further professional design. Ray went on to distinguish between what was 'design' under the old standard and what is now and has been included within the new standard (TG20:13). If the scaffold is TG20:13 compliant then it is deemed to have been designed.

Upon inspection of a scaffold, the HSE can, of course, ask to either see the Compliance Sheets or the scaffold design.

E-Software

Ray then gave a brief and useful demonstration of the new eGuide. The software is comprehensive, fairly simple to use and assists in the process of designing the appropriate scaffold for a given situation. If the software subsequently shows that the scaffold is not compliant, then it will be necessary to approach a suitably qualified designer.

The purpose of the software is to generate TG20:13 Compliance Sheets. The user selects the type/nature of the scaffold to be erected and the Guide produces a diagram which gives some specific details for example, the number of ties required etc. There is a facility to select the location, topography, seasonal factors and wind factor etc. The software has been designed so that most people will only need 5-10 minutes to learn how to use it.

Members' Questions

Andy Chappell, Honorary BHSEA Member, asked about the 'cowboys' and protection for the house holder? How can the house holder be reassured that the Guidance is being followed? Ray's advice was to make sure that the contractor is an NASC registered member.

Another question raised prompted the response from Ray that the employer/client should be asking for the Compliance Sheet from the scaffolder at the beginning of the work. Following the installation of the scaffold, the employer/client should expect a handing over certificate from the scaffolder.

Following a query from **Craig Nevin, Dudley MBC**, Ray confirmed that if the scaffold design has to be changed for any reason then another Compliance Sheet must be provided.

Finally, Ray added that the scaffolding checklist previously in existence will become irrelevant after 1 July 2014.
(Don't forget to check BHSEA website www.bhsea.org.uk for the slides covering today's presentation and for Ray's contact details).

Neil thanked Ray for his (usual) excellent presentation, and asked members to show their appreciation in the usual way.

Announcements:

Kim Scanlon:

It is with deep regret and sadness that BHSEA announces the sudden death of Kim Scanlon, Senior Health and Safety Manager at Skanska and highly respected Member of BHSEA Construction Sub-Committee/Working Well Together Group. Kim passed away on the 5 March 2014. He worked on many prestigious projects during his career at Skanska, including Walsall Hospital and RAF Wyton. Any messages of condolence/enquiries to Cassandra Cann at Skanska cassandra.cann@skanska.co.uk

Hot off the Press....

Job Opportunity:

Kevin Ryder of Pinnacle Professional Services Ltd. has been in touch with BHSEA to advise us of a request made by a pub lessee (Ms Tracey Williams), for assistance with general risk assessment. Briefly, the pub is run on a franchise basis and as such the lessee has to manage the process rather than the brewery.

Any Member willing and able (preferably with retail experience in pub products !) to assist with this request should contact: Bickertonpoacher@btconnect.com

New BHSEA Logo:



We've modernised BHSEA logo! This is a preview, (which still requires a little bit of work), but we hope you get the gist of it and grow to like it! Look out for the new logo on all BHSEA documents.

- **RPE Fit Test – Advanced 27th - 28th March 2014**

Concern over the quality of RPE fit testing in the UK has led to the development of a competency scheme, known as '[Fit2Fit](#)'. This advanced course is suitable for those who are well on the way to becoming competent fit testers and are possibly considering applying for accreditation under the Fit2Fit scheme. The course will provide training covering the syllabus of the Fit2Fit scheme. This is a 2-day advanced course covering both quantitative and qualitative fit testing methods. **Please note if you only carry out qualitative fit testing you can just attend the first day of this course. For further details regarding this please go to our website. [1 day Advanced course in qualitative fit testing](#).**

- **Layers of Protection Analysis (LOPA) - Practical Application and Pitfalls - 25th & 26th March 2014**

LOPA is a risk assessment method used to determine and demonstrate how safeguards protect against known hazard scenarios. The Process Safety Leadership Group (PSLG) prepared specific guidance for using LOPA to determine the safety integrity level (SIL) for overfill protection of Buncefield-like storage tanks. This course draws on that guidance, its relevance to other applications, and pitfalls identified during the assessment of a large number of LOPAs.

To book and for more information please visit the website at <http://www.hsl.gov.uk/training> or you can contact HSL by email training@hsl.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone on 01298 218806.

Get these dates in your diary.....

- **SHADs 2014** (free events arranged by the HSE and BHSEA under the Working Well Together - WWT - Campaign):

TOPIC:	DATE:	VENUE:
Temporary Works in Construction & Refurbishment	1 May 2014	National Metal Forming Centre
Roof Works & Fragile Roofs	18 June 2014	Coventry Rugby Club (one for the girls!!)
Mock Trial	September 2014	TBC
Worker Involvement	September 2014	TBC
Refurbishment & Occupational	18 November	National Metal Forming Centre

Health	2014	
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BOOK NOW! Because places are limited!

Contact Dee Welsh at the HSE

Email: dee.welsh@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 607 6129

• 2014 BHSEA Programme Meetings - Dates for your Diary:

14 April 2014 Changing Times in H&S Chris Jerman, John Lewis	13 October 2014 Construction–CDM & HSE Policy Russell Adfield, HSE
12 May 2014 Workplace Health Glen Musgrove, MOHS. *Marcus Dyer, Evac Chair	10 November 2014 Respiratory Sensitisers Professor Sherwood Burge
9 June 2014 Legal Update/Open Members Forum BHSEA Mngt. Cttee. Panel *Henry Skinner, Action on Hearing Loss	8 December 2014 Face Fit Testing & Respirators Alan McArthur, 3M PLC
8 September 2014 Safety Software NEBOSH, ACT, Cardinus	

*Members' Corner Speaker.

• Posturite:

Posturite became a sponsor of UK Safety Groups this year. Posturite is the UK's leading authority on workplace ergonomics, and has teams of Assessors and Account Managers around the UK who can answer any queries you might have. If you want to find your local Posturite Account Manager, find a list of them at:

<https://www.posturite.co.uk/index.php/accountmanager>

To kick start their association with UK Safety Groups members, Posturite is offering:

- 15% off First Aid and Fire Safety face to face training courses
- 20% off AssessRite e learning courses when you move your DSE assessing from paper based to online systems .

These discounted rates apply to all Safety Groups UK members and are valid throughout 2014. If you have any queries about this or want to talk to them, contact either Jamie Hall or Matt Tickle on:

jamiehall@posturite.co.uk

matttickle@posturite.co.uk

• BHSEA Members & Membership:

Don't forget that the Membership target for 2014 is (at least) 330 Members. You can help promote membership by using your contacts. If each Member here today introduces ONE new Member, we could more than hit our target!

Continued.....

Date of Next Meeting

2.00 pm Monday 14th April
2014

at the Birmingham Medical Institute

'Times Are Changing – Are You?'

Chris Jerman, CFIOSH FIIRSM
Safety Manager
John Lewis

- Confused as to why it's all so confusing?
- Feeling trapped on a merry-go-round of continuous improvement?
 - Looking for some clear road ahead?

Well perhaps there really are some answers to these questions and more. 40 years after the launch of the '1974 Act' the profession seems to be stuck in some crack in the safety time continuum with the same topics going round and around. Would we accept this length of time to solve some disciplinary issues? What about product quality? Maybe time keeping and attendance? 40 years to put those to bed would seem excessive, so how hard can it really be to get the work place safe? Could it simply be that we're looking at the wrong way - or at the very least could there be a better way?

In this presentation Chris tries to reset some of the ground rules and definitions and provide the basis of a fresh look at safety.

Don't forget the buffet lunch at 1.15 pm