

April 98

Presentation on 'Safeguarding Temporary Workers of all Ages', by David Elliott, Delta Extruded Metals.

David started by posing the question, How do you spot the temporary worker? The answer is that you probably can't because they often work alongside the permanent employees, using the same tools and equipment! David went on to say that the relevant legislation was largely contained in the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, as altered by the Health and Safety (Young Persons) Regulations 1997. The latter is specially significant for Work Experience students who are most vulnerable in strange work surroundings and who are owed a special duty of care.

David said that his company maintained a list of Visitors/Temporary Workers so that they could monitor the health and safety information given to them control their work activities on site. This process was started at a joint meeting with managers of temporary worker when joint risk assessments were carried out with guidance from the "Control of Contractors form. Typical of the measures considered would be the positioning of permanent anchorage's for window cleaners. This stage would then be followed up by a Site Induction Briefing with the temporary workers, to identify hazardous "No-go" areas as well as "Safe" areas.

Delivery drivers fell into a slightly different category because they could spend very little time in the factory, either leaving items or collecting them. All drivers report to the security, gate where they are directed to their destination and instructed on the need to follow road signs and the avoidance of 'No-Go' areas.

In another category is the person maintaining mechanical saws (the Saw Doctor!), who attends on many occasions after an initial assessment on the 'Competence of Contractors Form' and a Site Familiarisation briefing. In the same category would be the Water Treatment specialist.

A rather different category includes Midlands Electricity, whose staff may visit the site to carry out contractual work for Delta, OR to perform Statutory Work on the Public Electricity Supply System. This latter work is carried out under a Permit-to-Work procedure, with the authority of the Delta Operations Manager because of the hazards from the High Voltage System and its associated CO₂ Fire Extinguisher System. During night-time emergencies, the security guards need to call out Delta Engineers who are competent to use the PTW procedure under the Electricity at Work Regulations.

Another special group of workers are scaffolders who follow the normal assessment process before being accepted on to a list of Approved Scaffolders. Additionally, they are monitored closely, on a daily basis, because of the extreme hazards to contractors and Delta employees if standards fall.

For Office Staff and other factory workers there are three Agencies involved whose Managers receive a site familiarisation briefing and an Induction Training Pack before the start of the contract. This is then repeated for all their operatives who are accepted for work on the site.

This presentation was to have included a contribution by Roy Gill but, due to an extreme emergency that day at his company, Roy had no option to offering his apologies. We offer our sympathies to Roy and wishes for a satisfactory outcome.