



MAJOR PROJECTS SITE VEHICLES AND MOBILE PLANT SAFETY CRITICAL RULES

Background

During the latter part of 2016 our incident reporting systems flagged up a potential issue regarding the frequency of incidents and near misses involving site vehicles and mobile plant, including toppling, overturns and contact with structures. These types of incident carry with them a high potential for harm, illustrated by these UK statistics:

- 50 fatalities involving plant across the UK infrastructure industry in five years
- 773 major injuries
- 840 three-day or more lost time injuries

The data from Cintellate and the IEC Incident Management System was analysed to quantify the extent of the issue and identify any trends. This confirmed that in 2016 there was indeed a high number of site vehicle and mobile plant incidents and near misses, with 47 occurring across SPEN as a whole. The key trend with these events identified that the clear majority occurred on Transmission Major Projects/IEC project sites. These sites have a high concentration of site vehicles and mobile plant in operation, for example there are currently over 200 items deployed in the SW Scotland project area by a single contractor alone.

As the significant “hot spot” for this type of incident is Transmission Major Projects/IEC project sites, an intervention strategy has been targeted here. Transmission Major Projects, IEC and the SPEN Health & Safety Team established a Site Vehicles and Mobile Plant Safety Forum in collaboration with the service partners and contractors engaged on these project sites. The initial objective of this Forum was to create a set of Safety Critical Rules for implementation across all Transmission Major Projects/IEC sites. This set of rules has now been created. The purpose of these rules is to drive improvement through a consistent set of standards across all companies and sites, along with consistent consequences for wilful non-compliance. All companies involved have backed the creation of these rules and provided company logos for use in the relevant communications to illustrate their support. They will also be key in the briefing and implementation process.

These rules will be briefed out at all Transmission Major Projects/IEC sites and implemented on these sites by the mid-July 2017. On sites with significant site vehicle and mobile plant usage, SPEN/IEC representatives will be in attendance at the brief along with members of the management teams.





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Safety Critical Rules

Through a process of collaboration with the service partners/contractors participating in the Site Vehicles and Mobile Plant Safety Forum, the following Safety Critical Rules have been created for implementation on all Transmission Major Projects/IEC project sites. ***These rules will initially be applicable on Transmission Major Projects/IEC project sites only.***

The Safety Critical Rules are:

- **Ensure full 360° visibility for operator is maintained on plant at all times. (Clarification: this could be achieved via line of sight/mirrors/cameras).**
- **Implement installation and use of external seatbelt indicator on all plant. Operatives to wear seatbelt at all times when plant is in use.**
- **All Plant and Vehicle Marshals must be trained and hold a card to current NPORS/CPCS standards.**
- **No vehicles to pass on single track roads unless there is suitable provision to do so, for example passing place, traffic controls).**
- **Implement traffic flow priority signs on all sites. Operatives to comply with these priorities at all times.**
- **People/Plant interface. You will be fully compliant with the vehicle interface plan contained within the safe system of work for the site.**
- **The suitability of all items of plant for the task planned and the site conditions must be properly assessed before use. Details of this assessment must be available and briefed to the working party.**
- **Change Protocol. All changes must be signed off by an appropriately senior person who is not directly involved in the working party.**
- **Zero tolerance of wilful non-compliance. Wilful breach of the above Safety Critical Rules will lead to removal from site.**