

Newsletter January 2017



The Association has a web site: - www.hgsafety.co.uk

HSE Web Link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

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Topics

- **Myth Buster**
- **Mobile phones and use of Headphones Policy**
- **CSCS Card System Checking**
- **Common issues**
- **Rogues Gallery**

Mobile Phone and Headphones

This hopefully should give some clarification of the use of headphones and mobile phones whilst at work. We highly recommend that your company Health & Safety Policy reflects this.

CSCS with the recent press coverage of fraudulent cards in the industry it is good practice to check a percentage of CSCS cards with the CITB and record findings.

Myth buster – Wearing personal headphones in the workplace

Issue

The enquirer was recently told by the company he was working for that it is against health and safety regulations to wear just one personal headphone in the work place.

Panel decision

There are no specific health and safety regulations that ban the use of headphones in the workplace. However, in workplaces where there are risks such as moving vehicles it seems reasonable (and is not uncommon) for the use of personal headphones to be banned on the basis of an assessment of the risk. Good employers should consult with their staff or their representatives over what is reasonable in relation to use of personal headphones and from the information available it is not clear whether this has happened.

Mobile phones and use of Headphones Policy

It should be a Company Policy to not allow the use of mobile phones or headphone devices whilst operating any plant or equipment.

This includes the use of hands free equipment and applies to all personnel onsite.

In line with this, the use of mobile phones whilst driving cars, site vehicles, vans and lorries as well as any item of operated plant on site is not permitted.

In addition of this, the site agent has assessed the risks and established clear rules on the use of mobile phones on this site.

The contractor is to ensure that these are briefed to all of their personnel and followed at all times.

Mobile phones are not used in the following situations:

- Operating or banking items of plant
- Slinger/signalling operations
- Accessing work areas via ladders, scaffolding towers, steps etc
- Work at height
- Walking in areas of high activity such as earthworks or lifting operations
- Any activity that requires both hands to be free and requires awareness and concentration.

Similarly, on sites where mobile devices such as tablets are used for purposes of controlling the work, the risks are assessed and rules of use are established by the agent.

These include:

- Method of carrying equipment (hand free)
- Where and when the equipment can be used
- Limited use whilst walking
- Removal of gloves to use equipment

The use of audio devices with headphones for entertainment purposes is not allowed on site.

CSCS Card System Checking

Following the increase in fraudulent CSCS cards in use on construction sites, first reported back in October 2015 and recently brought to the public's attention on BBCs "The One Show".

We would like to inform our members there is a CSCS verification system available enabling the checker to gain proof of verification by either telephoning or carrying out an online check via the CITB Website.

What should a CSCS card look like?

Front of Card

- CSCS hologram in the top left-hand corner
- Card-holders name should be printed below the CSCS hologram
- Card-holder registration number and card expiry date printed below holders name
- ID photo on the right-hand side of the card overprinted with CSCS, except for senior management CSCS cards which do not have CSCS overprinted on ID photo

Back of Card

- Card-holders registration number repeated on reverse of card
- The card-holders construction qualifications listed below their registration number
- The CSCS verification helpline number is also printed across the top



Online Card Checker

The Online Card Checker enables you to search and view Card and Test details for individuals for scheme memberships and tests administered by CITB.

<http://www.citb.co.uk/cards-testing/how-do-i-check-card-details/>

What should you do if you suspect somebody is using a fraudulent card?

1. Retain the card if possible
2. Make photocopies of front and back
3. Record cardholder's name and address
4. Ask the cardholder where the card was obtained from
5. Call the local police and report the matter
6. Refuse access to site (subject to company rules)
7. Forward copies of all evidence to Operations Team; CSCS Ltd, The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT marked "SUSPECTED FRAUDULENT CARD" with details of the crime number given by local police. You can also email Report.it@citb.co.uk. CSCS will fully support any prosecution with technical and factual evidence.

Common issues identified on Sites

Chris Livall Senior Safety Advisor

Following my previous months inspection, I have noticed that on-site parking is becoming an issue. Although many sites do not have parking facilities on site there seems to be an “I’ll park anywhere” attitude.

This causes many risks i.e. on site traffic movements, pedestrian access, deliveries, all of these can lead to accidents on site.

Also I note that off-site parking is becoming an issue with regard to local parking restrictions, especially around or near schools, and implications of emergency vehicle access/routes.

May I remind companies that the site induction should give any restrictions on and off site when parking.

Nick Jones Safety Advisor

Over recent months I have found a large number of damaged ladders being used onsite.

All ladders when used as part of a scaffold must be inspected at the same time as the scaffold requirements. Other ladders on site must be inspected at regular intervals, however all persons using ladders must be trained to check them before each use.

Any damage however minor must not be accepted as the integrity of the components cannot be guaranteed.

Defects to be identified are bent, dented stiles, twisted, bent or damaged rungs, missing or damaged feet, painted and rings free from oil, grease or mud.

Adrian Hatton Safety Advisor

I have noticed an increased number of stepladders being used to carry out tasks which could be carried out whilst using more suitable work at height equipment. Whilst there is nothing wrong with the use of ladders and step ladders.

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 require an assessment to be undertaken before starting work at height. If an assessment concludes there is no alternative to work at height then suitable work equipment should be selected, taking into account the nature of the work.

The use of ladders and stepladders should be considered only for short duration works or where there is no alternative due to space etc. I would like to remind our members those using alternative methods e.g. tower scaffolds and Mobile electric work platforms should ensure the persons erecting/altering or operating this equipment have the relevant up to date training in place to carry out such tasks.

Rogues Gallery



I'm sure scaffolding should be straight?



Topman! Is this the correct equipment?



Inadequate edge protection



360° Rollover! What's missing?