

## Maintaining Site Security – Temporary fencing and hoarding

### Responsibility and general duties:

H&S@W etc. Act – requirement to ensure the health & safety of people who are not in our employment; requirement to ensure that we do not do anything that puts others 'at risk'.

CDM regulation 13(6) & 22(1)(I) – prevention of access to site by 'unauthorised' persons: the company must take 'reasonable' measures to ensure that no unauthorised person enters site or the work area.

HS(G)151 'Protecting the public; 'your next move' – para28: Risk assessment should decide how the perimeters will be defined, what type will be needed to protect the public and where it should be placed. Factors will include - the nature and type of the construction work; how heavily populated is the area; who will need to visit the site during the work; whether the site may attract children; and site characteristics.

### Making the site secure:

How access is to be controlled will vary from site to site and the nature of each project however the following must be observed:

- Consider the security threat and wider site controls:

#### *The site perimeter*

- 37 A 2 m high fence is an effective site barrier for most sites, exceptions to this may be city centre sites and residential areas where there have been previous attempts by children to gain access to the site. In these cases larger hoardings may be appropriate. Perimeter fences can be constructed from a range of materials, including metal mesh. If a fence is to be used then it should be difficult to climb. Using a close mesh which prevents children getting their hands and feet through should mean that no one can gain handholds or footholds. Sectional fencing should be locked together and not easily separated without using a tool from the inside of the site. Keep gaps underneath the fence or gate as small as possible to stop anyone gaining access under the fence. Make sure children cannot get access through gaps under temporary fencing. On uneven ground gaps can be quite considerable if steps are not taken to level the surface. Where the feet of sectional fencing points into pedestrian areas, they should be highlighted to avoid tripping hazards.
- 38 On plywood, and other similar sheeting materials, wind loading can be considerable and this can be increased by localised environmental conditions. Design the perimeter fencing (including the support and fixing arrangements for the structures) to withstand such conditions. It can be useful to provide public vision panels. These requirements need to be reflected in its design and construction.
- 39 Provide securable gates at access points. The gates should form part of the fence and be of the same size. Controlling access through gates is very important. Ensure that the gate can be secured, whether it is open or not, to avoid it being blown shut in an uncontrolled manner. In some environments, it may also be necessary to close the gates while work is in progress, eg, for a school's internal security. However, this must not hamper the ability to escape in an emergency. Keep the gate locked and when the site is not occupied – secure any temporary fencing.

### Deterring theft, interference and unauthorised entry:

- Provide or review the need for additional security and 'night watching' particularly on remote sites and locations that are known to be at higher risk of theft, damage, interference, vandalism, forced entry and the like.
- Ensure the ground on which the temporary fence or hoarding is to rest is adequately levelled, firm and even, with minimal changes in gradient.

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- Avoid moving fixed panels to form an opening. Where possible ensure that a proper temporary gate is provided – many suppliers include these as part of the accessories available with temporary fencing and hoarding systems.
- Properly control the site boundary hoarding or fence to prevent unauthorised adaptations and alterations – use tamper-proof fittings where necessary. Providing warning signs to advise site personnel not to interfere unless authorised to do so, particularly where a demountable system is used.
- Always fit clips with the bolts and tamper-proof fittings on the inside.
- Where wind loading may be an issue, ensure that adequate bracing is provided – always follow the manufacturer or supplier guidance and avoid improvising a solution. Remember that a close boarded hoarding is classed as ‘temporary works’ and may require its stability arrangements to be designed and checked, particularly if the recommended standard bracing solution cannot be installed.
- Don’t place anything on the hoarding or fencing without re-assessing its stability – the additional load imposed by mounting lights or CCTV cameras, and fixing debris netting or signs can all increase the risk of it overturning.
- Even open mesh systems require additional bracing – ‘one panel set’ = the fence panel + two clips + footblock + brace & counterweight or holding down bolts.
- Ensure the correct clips are used and installed correctly. Two clips should be used to connect adjoining standards, and they should be fitted at least 1 metre apart vertically. Ensure that the clipping pattern is consistent across the hoarding or fencing line.
- **Think!** Is there adequate space behind the temporary hoarding or fence line to position the footblocks and braces?
- Where temporary hoarding or fencing is placed on or adjacent to a footway or pedestrian route, the panel legs should be placed in the outermost holes of the footblocks on the public side to prevent the footblocks causing a trip hazard.
- Footblocks should be always be set at right angles to the line of the hoarding or fencing.
- Check the hoarding or fencing at least once a day to ensure that it is properly maintained, remains secure, is stable, and doesn’t create a hazard for the public.

### Links & supporting information:

Company general site rules .pdf document

[Site Rules \(Issue 6\)](#)

Safety Management Procedure for Temporary Works

[JBC/SMP/026](#)