

North West Business Unit Monthly SHEQual Theme

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Site Visits and Your Safety



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BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Introduction

During the course of your work, you will probably be required to go out of the office you normally work in and carryout a site visit.



This may be common practice for the majority of Engineers / Designers working on the UU AMP5 contract or even other projects.



Site visits may seem mundane and low risk but do you really know what the Health and Safety issues are and what you should do to protect yourself?



What is classed as a site visit?

The basic answer is any visit to another working area that is not an Office Environment.

Such as:

- Construction Sites
- Process Plants
- Water Treatment Works (Waste or Clean Water) even for meetings,
- Any visits to outfalls, reservoirs, pipelines, etc,
- Meetings by the roadside / highways,
- Meetings with third parties not in an office.

Don't forget, there may be others, your knowledge and experience will tell you.

What are the dangers?

There are hazards lurking for us all when carrying out site visits, some of the more common are:

- Slips Trips and Falls
- Working near water
- Falls from height
- Working near substances hazardous to health
- Traffic accidents
- Weather

You must find out what these are!



What you need to wear!

Different site visits will require different Clothing / PPE.

For instance:

- A visit to a construction site may require full PPE (Hi Visibility Jacket, Safety Boots, Helmet, Gloves, Light Eye Protection and Ear Protection if required).
- A meeting in a small water treatment works (without going on the process side) will require sensible footwear to be worn (strong and sturdy shoes or boots (no high heels)).
- A meeting near a highway will require a Hi Visibility Jacket to be worn.



The Clothing / PPE you wear should be sufficient for the environment you will be in.

Risk Assessment



Prior to carrying out a site visit you must ensure a Risk Assessment has been carried out. If there are any significant findings then these will be recorded. You must find out what they are.

The Risk Assessment should be in the project folder. This should tell you what the site hazards are and what PPE you will require.

If a Risk Assessment is not in place you should check the project Hazard Identification Checklist (HIC). This document will list all the Hazards that have been identified on that site.

If you don't get the answers, Ask the person responsible for organising the site visit.

Who to Contact?

How do you find out what the Hazards are on the Site you are visiting?

- Ask the person who is organizing the meeting or visit.
- Ask the project Design Manager (or who is sending you to site).
- Contact the Operations Manager / Site Manager / Site Supervisor (they will tell you what the current hazards are at the time of visit).

Don't forget, sign in when you get there and ask for a site induction.

If in doubt, ask!

