

CONTRACTORS LETTER | NOVEMBER 2015

HEALTH & SAFETY FINDINGS 2015

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued assistance in supporting Parkeray's Health & Safety initiatives in 2015 and to outline the key findings seen on the Health & Safety audits of our projects this year.

SITE SUPERVISORS AND FOREMAN (SUPPLY CHAIN)

It has become apparent that a large number of operatives you employ on our projects come to the project inductions without knowing who your supervisors or foreman are, or having met them before our site inductions - this needs to be addressed going forward, please. On some of the projects, supervisors or foreman have not been appointed which is a situation that we are looking to you to immediately address.

It still concerns us that your supervisors - where applicable - have not attended either the SMSTS or SSSTS course as required last year by Parkeray. As of January 2016, if your supervisor or foreman turns up for induction on one of our projects without the above qualifications, they will be turned away at a cost to yourselves. The project team will require a copy of the individuals training certificate.

EYE PROTECTION

Parkeray made eye protection mandatory as part of our PPE requirements on all Parkeray projects as of the 3rd April 2013. The mandatory part was that they (glasses) had to be with the individual (operatives, supervisors, visitors) at all times when working or walking around site and worn in accordance with the work process being undertaken. If your operatives are using high impact equipment (nail guns, grinders) they will be required to wear Class1 impact eyewear protection, not the safety spectacles, as these do not meet the requirements for eye protection. Parkeray's management have enforced and lead by example, but still a year and a half on a large number of operatives are ignoring this requirement as identified by your risk assessments and/or our mandate. I find this extremely disappointing as it should be second nature by now for them to protect their eyesight when needed, and not rely on Parkeray management having to remind them. This needs more enforcement by yourselves and your supervisory management on site to ensure this situation is improved.

PPE

PPE image of your operatives has generally improved on all projects. What is still to be improved is the use of hand and arm protection (gloves, sleeves) and the use of Respiratory Personal Protection (RPE i.e. face masks). All operatives are required to be face fit tested by yourselves and the appropriate FFP mask issued to them. This needs more pro-active monitoring and control by your project supervisors. Protection arm sleeves should now be included in your PPE RA where applicable, as an aid to protect your operatives from cuts to their forearms when working inside the ceiling void or carrying sharp material that has a capacity to cause injury.

You are subsequently responsible for ensuring all your operatives and management that attend a Parkeray project have a complete set of PPE/RPE in their possession before starting works. At the induction process if a member of your staff has not got the correct PPE they will not be allowed access on to the project and will be asked to come back the next day for re-induction.

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ASBESTOS AWARENESS TRAINING

Under The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR) Regulation 10 (1), you have a duty as an employer to ensure your staff are aware of the danger asbestos poses - this should be carried out as a training course lasting usually 2-3 hours. This training has to be carried out at regular intervals at least yearly, by a suitably trained and competent person. Copies of all asbestos awareness training certificates for operatives attending our projects are to be issued to the project team at the same time as your RAMS.

MECHANICAL HIGH-LEVEL ACCESS

To re-iterate all podium style access equipment and hop ups are banned from Parkeray projects due to unsafe working practices witnessed over the previous years. Almost three years on some contractors are still attempting to bring this type of equipment to site! An email with an alternative to the podium and hop up was distributed to our supply chain (see attached for information) and you were strongly encouraged to use the mechanical access equipment. A number of Parkeray project managers supplied the "PECO and BOSS" style mechanical lifter for trial on their projects, and this was given a positive "thumbs up" by those that used it and subsequently hired the item. We are strongly recommending that you look at using mechanical lifting access equipment for the working at height elements of your work where appropriate; this has now been included in the project contract documentation. The use of step ladders is severely restricted and is subject to authorisation of use by a permit which can only be issued by the Parkeray project management team.

RISK ASSESSMENTS & METHOD STATEMENTS (RAMS)

The overall standard of RAMS has improved, with good feedback from the project teams. However COSHH assessments are particularly poor in that all is usually produced is the items safety data sheet; this does not constitute a COSHH assessment. For further clarification consult your safety advisor and please ensure the appropriate assessment is produced in line with your RAMS and your operatives are aware of the potential risks prior to arrival on site.

Once again I thank you for your continued support and approach to Health and Safety matters over the past 12months and wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and prosperous 2016.

Please feel free to contact me on any of the above issues should you so wish.

Yours sincerely



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