

SHEQ UPDATE



Quarter 3 Update • AUGUST 2024

KEY SUPPLY CHAIN

Welcome to GEDA's 2024 Q3 SHEQ update.

Within the Q3 edition we would like to highlight a few key events that have taken place recently for GEDA.

The CCS scores have consistently been outstanding, safety documents have been updated, and our teams have received valuable health checks.

Read the rest of our update to find out what else Team GEDA have been up to, and other industry news! Please also circulate this 'SHEQ Update' amongst your teams to keep them informed.

WHAT WE'LL COVER



Training day



CCS scores



Ladder work instructions



Face fitting



Dust and noise pollution



Battery disposal



Health Checks

TRAINING DAY IN NOTTINGHAM

An internal training session took place back in May at Nottingham Racecourse, where Aaron Hughes MD presented the company's Strategic Review to the team in GB.

Vocon Traffic Management was present to discuss traffic management, and Groundshore were there to discuss trench support, and temporary works. Various speakers from GEDA shared insights from their respective business areas during the event, such as waste duty of care, time management, and quality on site.



CCS SCORES

Since our last SHEQ Update, GEDA sites have continued making excellent progress, consistently earning high scores from Considerate Constructors.

Congratulations to our site teams at Sunningdale, Belfast & Letterkenny Rd, Derry for achieving 45/45 following their last Monitor Visits!

Credit to our teams who put their all into creating safe and considerate sites, and to our CSR Co-Ordinator who has been facilitating charity donations and school visits in the communities we work in.

CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTORS SCHEME



LADDER WORK INSTRUCTIONS

Use of ladders is strictly controlled on all GEDA sites in line with legislation.

Please provide details of any intended ladder use via your RAMS at least 2 weeks prior to starting on site.

We have developed a new ladder Work Instruction for guidance.

WORK INSTRUCTION

H&S 14 Ladder Usage

Issue: 1
Date: June 2024

When is a ladder the most suitable equipment:

Ladders can be used for working at height when a Risk Assessment has shown that using equipment that offer a high level of fall protection is not justified because of the low risk and short duration of use, or there are existing workplace features which cannot be altered.

Short duration is not a deciding factor in establishing whether use of ladders is acceptable, you must first consider the risk. As a guide, if your task would require staying up a leaning ladder or step ladder for more than 30 minutes at a time, it is recommended you use alternative equipment.

Where should Ladders be used:

Only use a ladder:

- On firm ground
- On level ground
- On clean, solid surfaces
- Where it will not be struck by vehicles
- Where it will not be pushed over by other hazards, such as doors, or windows, i.e. secure the doors and windows where possible.
- Where the general public are prevented from using it, walking underneath it or being at risk because they are too near (Use barriers, cones or, a last resort, a person standing guard at the base).
- Where it has been secured.

Pre use Checks:

Pre-use checks should be carried out:

- By the user
- At the start of the working day
- After something has changed, e.g. the ladder has been dropped or has fallen.

Ladder inspections should also be formally recorded on a weekly basis, with any findings being recorded on the weekly inspection form.


Ladders must be tagged illustrating it is safe to use, tags should be updated on a weekly basis in line with the weekly inspection form.

The checks should include:

- **The stiles** – Make sure they are not bent or damaged, as the ladder could buckle or collapse.
- **The feet** – If they are missing, worn or damaged the ladder could slip. Also check the ladder feet when moving from soft/dirty ground to a smooth solid surface to make sure the actual feet and not the dirt is making contact with the ground.
- **The rungs** – If they are bent, worn, missing or loose they could fall.
- **The locking mechanism** – does the mechanism work properly? Are components or fixings bent, worn or damaged? If so, the ladder could collapse. Ensure the locking bar is fully engaged.
- **The stepladder platform** - If it splits or buckled the ladder could become unstable or collapse.
- **The steps or treads on stepladders** – If they are contaminated, they could be slippery, if the fixings are on it steps they could collapse.

IF YOU SPOT ANY OF THE ABOVE DEFECTS, DO NOT USE THE LADDER AND REPORT IT TO GEDA SITE MANAGEMENT TEAM OR YOUR EMPLOYER

Low-risk & Short duration



SHEQ



FACE FITTING

As an employer you have a legal responsibility to control substances hazardous to health in the workplace and to prevent and adequately control your employee's exposure to those substances. Having the correctly fitted RPE for the task ensures a safer working environment for your employees.

GEDA SHEQ team can face-fit operatives to an FFP3 half-face rubber mask for a small fee. Contact any GEDA SHEQ or site staff for more information.



DUST & NOISE POLLUTION

In our SHEQ Monthly meeting, we discussed dust and noise pollution, along with the corresponding mitigation measures. Our sites have been concentrating on implementing dust suppression and noise control measures to prevent pollution.



DISPOSAL OF LITHIUM BATTERIES

The BBC recently reported that single use vapes are sparking surges in fires at UK waste sites. They indicated that a whopping “1.3million disposable e-cigarettes discarded every week often end up in general waste and their broken batteries are highly flammable”. People should never bin their electricals or their portable batteries. If they can, they should remove any hidden batteries from their electricals and recycle the batteries and electricals separately. If they can't remove the batteries, they should recycle their electricals separately. Lithium batteries are extremely challenging as damaged and defective batteries are significantly more dangerous. Until the safe disposal of lithium batteries is more heavily regulated, it is important to take care when dealing with waste lithium batteries. Always ensure that a risk assessment is carried out and that there are suitable and sufficient controls in place to minimise the consequences. If in doubt, seek advice from an expert.

HEALTH CHECKS

Recently, GEDA office and site staff have participated in comprehensive health assessments.

In Kegworth, employees underwent a thorough health evaluation conducted by Healthy Workplaces, an initiative from Leicestershire County Council.

At the Head Office in Coalisland, Northern Ireland Chest, Heart, and Stroke provided similar evaluations.

Both organizations delivered detailed health analyses, covering the following areas:

- Cholesterol levels, including total cholesterol, HDL (good cholesterol), and the ratio of total to good cholesterol.
- HbA1c, which measures blood glucose levels over the past two to three months, offering a more accurate assessment than a standard glucose test.
- Height, weight, and BMI.
- Blood pressure.
- Body composition, including body fat percentage, muscle mass, metabolic age, and body water percentage.
- A personalized report.
- Supporting information



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