



# SHEQ UPDATE

Quarter 1 Update • MARCH 2025

## KEY SUPPLY CHAIN

Welcome to GEDA's 2025 Q1 SHEQ update.

Within the Q1 edition we would like to highlight a few key events that have taken place recently for GEDA.

Read our update to find out what 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

- Volunteer Day with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- CEF Safety Reboot
- ISO Results
- Safety Card Changes ROI
- Safety Alerts
- Meet the Buyer
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Carbon Reduction Training



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## TEAM GEDA'S WILD WORK DAY

Our team had a great day volunteering with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust at the beautiful Attenborough Nature Reserve, completing their 'Wild Work Day'.

After an informative toolbox talk, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work on wetland scrub clearance and thinning. This essential task helps restore reedbed habitats, which are vital for thriving wetland ecosystems.

A huge thank you to our amazing team of volunteers, which included staff from our Kegworth office and several team members from various projects in the East Midlands region!



## TEAM GEDA ENGAGED IN THE CEF SAFETY REBOOT THROUGHOUT JANUARY!

Our site teams took a step back to focus on key health and safety topics, including Plant, Vehicle, and Equipment, with guidance from Construction Employers Federation (CEF)

Prioritising these high-risk areas is essential for keeping everyone safe! All sites across Northern Ireland engaged in toolbox talks focusing on each topic to ensure best practice when carrying out tasks.

A huge thank you to our site teams for their participation and to our SHEQ officers for their leadership!



## GEDA ISO RESULTS

In February, we underwent our external ISO audit for ISO 9001, 14001, and 45001—achieving a flawless result with no non-conformances or observations recorded. Additionally, we successfully completed our ISO 27001 audit, with only two minor observations noted. Congratulations to everyone whose hard work and dedication contributed to this outstanding achievement!



## Safety Cards Changes In ROI

All persons who are carrying out any activity listed in Schedule 5 of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (Construction) Reg must have a **Solas CSCS Card**. No other cards are accepted. Some trades that are listed in this schedule are: Scaffolding, Mobile crane operator, Telescopic handler operator, Articulated dumper operator, 360 excavator operator etc. A list of trades can be found on this link:

<https://www.solas.ie/construction-lp/cscs>

# SAFETY ALERTS

**Wearing seatbelts whilst using construction machinery and plant is a crucial safety measure. Read our Safety Alert for more information:**

## SAFETY ALERT

### 27. Use of Seatbelts/Plant

Issue: 27

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Date: February 2025

#### Why we wear seatbelts:

Wearing seatbelts whilst using construction machinery and plant is a crucial safety measure.

Wearing a seatbelt on construction sites is crucial because it keeps the operator securely in their seat, preventing them from being thrown out during rollovers or collisions. It also helps maintain control of the machinery, reducing the risk of accidents that could harm the operator and others nearby. Additionally, seatbelts distribute the force of sudden stops and vibrations, minimizing the risk of injury.

Overall, a seatbelt is a vital safety precaution that can help to prevent injuries and save lives. It is important that operators understand the importance of the seatbelt and make it a habit to always wear them. Employers should also ensure that the belts are in good working order, and that operators are trained on proper usage and care of seatbelts. It is also important that operators always follow the manufacturer's instructions, properly maintain and inspect plant, and comply with legal and other safety protocols in place on site.



Image 1 – Seatbelt left plugged in.

#### Exiting Plant:

Switch off the engine when getting off plant. Leaving the engine running creates the risk of uncontrolled or accidental movement of the plant, with the potential for serious injury. Use of the “Dead Mans Handle” does not remove this risk. However quickly you will be getting back onto the plant, it is vital that the engine is switched off and the key removed before you get off.

In conclusion, proper use of a seatbelt while operating construction plant and machinery, and switching the engine off and removing the key when dismounting, are critical safety measures that help prevent serious injuries and death.

**REMEMBER - Seatbelts are there for your protection – always wear one when operating plant. Always switch the engine off and remove the key when getting off plant.**



Image 2 – Plant left running with seatbelt plugged in.

# SAFETY ALERTS

A Loading/Unloading Safety Alert was created due to an incident that occurred on a site when there was a delivery of a cable reel. Every year there are thousands of accidents involving transport in the workplace, some resulting in fatality. To manage workplace transport effectively, there are three key areas to consider when carrying out your risk assessment: 1. Safe site (design & activity); 2. Safe Vehicle; 3. Safe driver.

## SAFETY ALERT

### 29. RIDDOR (Dangerous Occurrence) – Unloading of Materials

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Date: Feb 25

#### Incident Description And Details:

The delivery driver arrived to site and was reversed into position by two banksmen with the lorry being parked on a slight incline to the rear. The driver then set about manoeuvring to load from its position inside the lorry towards the rear hydraulic tail lift. Upon reaching the hydraulic tail lift, it had been observed by one of the banksmen that the tail lift dipped slightly downwards when bearing the load and subsequently, with momentum, the pallet truck and cable reel continued forwards. This resulted in both items disembarking the tail lift in an uncontrolled manner at high level (approx. 1.4m). The driver had remained on the lorry/tail lift and no personnel were in the vicinity of the rear of the tail lift when the items fell to the ground. There was a small oil stain on the concrete from the hydraulic pump on the pallet truck. No injuries to personnel or damage to assets or environment.

Images below:



#### Immediate Action Taken:

Works were stopped and an investigation started.

Sand was used to contain the spill and then shovelled up and bagged.

## SAFETY ALERT

### 29. RIDDOR (Dangerous Occurrence) – Unloading of Materials

Issue: 29  
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#### Root Cause:

- No prior notification of delivery given to the site team by the sub-contractor
- No lifting plan/strategy provided by the sub-contractor
- Lack of awareness of the position of truck
- Driver unable to control lift
- No edge protection/wheel stop on the tail lift
- The load was positioned on a secondary pallet increasing instability.

#### Action To Be Taken And Learning To Be Applied

- Sub-Contractor to inform GEDA of all expected material and equipment deliveries to site
- Safe lift plan/strategy to be provided for all expected material and equipment deliveries to site
- Proof of competence training and certification of equipment.
- Deliveries will be not permitted to unload if the above is not submitted to the site team

#### **PUBLISHED GUIDANCE:**

[Delivering Safely.pdf](#) – HSA Guidance


[Loading and Unloading](#) - HSE Guidance

- When receiving deliveries you must consider:
  - The risks related to the delivery & collection
  - Eliminate them or if this is not possible, minimise them so far as reasonably practicable
- Safe system of work must be in place to control the risks associated with the delivery or collection.
- The equipment must be suitable for the type and size of the load
- Staff are competent and drivers are trained
- Plan for safe loading/unloading
- Know the route: anticipate problems i.e. on a slight incline
- Visually inspect the load before it is unloaded
- Anyone leaving their cab wears the appropriate PPE

# GEDA MEET THE BUYER EVENT

We are pleased to invite subcontractors to our Meet the Buyer event.

 Date: Wednesday 30th April 2025

 Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

 Venue: Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, DE74 2DF

As we expand with exciting new residential and commercial contracts in the **East and West Midlands** areas, we are seeking skilled subcontractors to join our supply chain and establish long-term, collaborative partnerships.

Secure your one-to-one meeting with #TeamGEDA by emailing [meetthebuyer@geda.co.uk](mailto:meetthebuyer@geda.co.uk).

We look forward to connecting with you!



## GEDA MEET THE BUYER EVENT



Wednesday 30th April



Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, DE74 2DF



10:00 - 15:00

### JOIN OUR COLLABORATIVE SUPPLY CHAIN

Due to securing New Residential and Commercial projects in the East & West Midlands we are looking for new Sub-contractors to join our team.

We require: Groundworks Contractors, Bricklayers, Roofing Contractors, Painting Contractors, Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Electrical Contractors

**AND MORE...**

Book a slot by e-mailing [meetthebuyer@geda.co.uk](mailto:meetthebuyer@geda.co.uk)

# FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Our team recently took part in fire extinguisher training with UK Fire Training at our Hickings Lane site in Stapleford. The session provided in-depth knowledge on different types of extinguishers, their correct use, and proper deployment in an emergency.

We hope everyone found the training valuable - thank you to all who participated!



## Carbon Reduction Through Improved Energy Efficiency

Read GEDA's toolbox talk on reducing carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency.

Every year, countless tonnes of carbon are emitted due to inefficient energy use - it's up to all of us to take action and reduce our carbon footprint.

For further learning, visit the CCS Best Practice Hub and complete the Carbon Reduction Training course: [Carbon Reduction Training Link](#)



### Toolbox Talk

#### Carbon Reduction Through Improved Energy Efficiency

Countless tonnes of carbon emissions are produced each year through inefficient energy usage, most of which are easily avoidable by way of more sustainable energy choices. Turning off all unnecessary appliances and taking simple precautions when commuting to work or driving plant will make a real difference to the planet and pockets!

#### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- **avoid environmental harm:** recent studies suggest crop failure, catastrophic changes in sea level and plant & animal extinction will result from a lack of global action.
- **avoid environmental harm:** emissions (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>) are continuing to adversely affect the Earth's climate.
- **avoid prosecution:** it is becoming mandatory for construction companies to monitor, record and reduce their emissions.
- **reduce costs:** using mains electrical supply opposed to fuel-powered plant on site reduces carbon emissions and financial costs.

#### DO

- ✓ ensure all lighting, heating and electrical equipment is switched off when not in use.
- ✓ avoid unnecessary vehicle movements and journeys.
- ✓ use appropriate plant for the task.
- ✓ operate plant/vehicles efficiently by minimising idling time and using appropriate power service plant/vehicles correctly to ensure optimum performance.
- ✓ use sustainable low carbon fuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).
- ✓ use public transport, cycle or walk to commute.
- ✓ where travelling by car is unavoidable, share the journey with friends/colleagues.
- ✓ ensure all unnecessary items are removed from cars and tyres are correctly inflated.
- ✓ accelerate smoothly and, where practicable, use cruise control.
- ✓ use local products, materials and labour.

#### DON'T

- ✗ leave doors and windows open when air conditioning or heating is switched on.
- ✗ leave external lighting on overnight unless it is a security requirement.
- ✗ leave vehicle and plant engines running.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What simple steps can be taken to reduce emissions on GEDA sites?
2. What are the benefits of reducing emissions on GEDA sites?

