
ACDM September Newsletter



HSE Cracks down on Dust

Health and safety inspectors will be visiting construction sites from the 5th of October in a month-long initiative to crack down on dust related health issues on construction sites.

More than 3,500 builders die every year from cancers related to their work with thousands more cases of ill-health and missed days of work.

HSE inspectors have the power to enter any construction site and shut down work if they see any dangerous activities. All dust related activities must be planned to mitigate as much dust creation where possible and where not possible the workers must be protected from inhaling carcinogenic particles.



https://press.hse.gov.uk/2020/09/24/health-and-safety-executive-cracks-down-on-dust/?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=con-dust-20&utm_term=news-page&utm_content=press-channels-push%22&_ga=2.200540909.252340291.1601288084-1325863547.1591614099

Costain and Skanska trial Solar and hydrogen powered cabins on HS2

The new 'Ecosmart ZERO' cabins were designed and manufactured by the British company AJC Trailers, and supplied by the hire firm GAP Group. The cabins provide a kitchen, seating area, separate toilet and changing room for workers, with the power to run the heating, sockets, kettle and microwave coming instantly from the battery bank which is constantly fed by the built-in hydrogen fuel cell and solar panels.

According to data from 16 Ecosmart ZERO cabins over a 21 week period on the HS2 project 112 tonnes of carbon were saved. This is the equivalent of roughly 40,000 litres of diesel used on generators.



With Global warming and green technologies becoming more of a priority for governments and corporations changes like these are necessary when over a third of UK emissions can be attributed to the built environment. The industry needs to make changes wherever possible to safely reduce carbon emissions for future generations.

https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/90501?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2544-s-en-280920

Updated Housing Design App could get London Building after Covid-19

The London Mayor has and Bryden Wood have launched a free to use app for designers which harnesses the latest design technology and data to design and build manufactured homes. The hope of the app is to encourage the use of modern methods of construction (MMC's) which have the potential to reduce carbon emissions, costs, time, and safety implications if widely adopted.



The app is likely the first of its kind in the world that incorporates city wide data to aid designers. The app will have data sets such as :

- Building and neighbourhoods in greater detail
- Local amenities
- Ecology (location and species of trees) and weather patterns
- Road information, transport infrastructure and site accessibility
- Land classifications

Full story here

https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/90243?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2519-s-en-220920

Construction Sites are Urged to embrace NHS Covid-19 App

Construction sites across England and Wales are being encouraged to have QR codes on display so that workers are better able to track their movements on the track and trace app which will help the teams track down possible Covid infections.

Scotland of course has a separate app which tracks your locations to determine if you have been in contact with an infected person. Of course, this means that site managers do not need

to display codes and have workers scan to check in. However, site managers should be insisting that everyone who attends their sites has the app downloaded and the tracing function turned on. This will help them isolate any outbreaks on site which could have disastrous effects for a project if an uncontrolled outbreak results in the vast majority of workers contracting the virus.



Download the Scottish app here - <https://protect.scot/>

Download the England and Wales app here - <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/the-nhs-app/>

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/construction-sites-urged-to-embrace-nhs-covid-19-app>

Protecting Home Workers

During the lockdown some of us have had the 'luxury' of being able to work from home. This comes with its own set of challenges as not everyone has a desk and office space to set up and work from.

Much of the same issues with working with display screens are similar to those of working with office but can be much more tricky for those without proper set ups as some are forced to work from their kitchen tables, sofas or even beds. The same guidance for working in office applies here, workers should take a 5 minute break every hour, avoid static postures and change position regularly, stand and move around every once in a while.



Probably the major issues with working from home the sense of isolation and motivation which can come from working with supervision. When lone working if you are not used to it can be lonely if you are used to sharing office space with several others or at least having someone in an office nearby you can speak to whenever you need to. To overcome this keeping in touch with line managers and colleagues can help a worker to stay in touch with their work and the company and improve motivation. Group chats with colleagues can be an easy way to keep in touch with the entire office and to float questions whenever you are stuck on a problem.

Even with lots of support some workers may find working from home and the isolation have a harder impact on their health especially if they live alone. Regular contact from colleagues and managers will help make sure everyone is happy and healthy throughout this hard time, and will help raise any issues with workload/stress that can be impacting somebodies mental health.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/workers/home.htm>

<https://www.ergonomics.org.uk/common/Uploaded%20files/Publications/CIEHF-Working-from-Home-Infographic.pdf>



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