

Construction Site Safety Pack

Implementation guide — read this first · for people on the ground, not just people on machines

This pack covers the work that ordinary site operatives actually do: working at height, cutting and drilling, concreting, digging, using hand and power tools, and everything that goes with it. It sits alongside the Workplace Transport pack (WTS), which covers vehicles and yards.

Scope and limitations — read before use

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1. Why construction is different

Fact	What it means
Construction recorded 25 worker deaths in 2025/26 — around 20% of all worker deaths from about 6% of the workforce.	The fatal injury rate is roughly 4.8 times the all-industry average.
Falls from height remain the single biggest cause of death at work (31 across all industries in 2025/26).	If you do one thing well, make it height.
An estimated 79,000 construction workers suffer work-related ill health, and about 2.2 million working days are lost each year.	Roughly 82% of those lost days are ILL HEALTH, not injury — mainly musculoskeletal and respiratory.
Construction has high rates of hand-arm vibration syndrome — about 7.3 new assessed cases per 100,000 employees.	Vibration injury is permanent. It does not get better.

The thing most small firms miss: the accident kills one person occasionally, but the health hazards damage almost everybody slowly. Dust, vibration, noise and manual handling are where the real toll is, and they are the easiest things to have no paperwork for.

2. What is in this pack

Ref	Document	Covers
CON-00	Implementation guide	This document
CON-01	Working at height	Ladders, towers, MEWPs, edges, openings, roofs, falling objects
CON-02	Dust, silica and COSHH	Cutting, drilling, chasing, sweeping. The biggest health risk on most sites.
CON-03	Vibration and noise	HAVS and hearing damage from tools, with exposure tracking

CON-04	Manual handling	The largest single cause of lost days
CON-05	Hand and power tools	PUWER, guarding, inspection, 110V, abrasive wheels
CON-06	Concrete, cement and mortar	Burns, dermatitis, silica, pours and formwork
CON-07	Excavations and buried services	Collapse, HSG47 safe digging, confined spaces
CON-08	Electricity on site	Temporary supplies, overhead lines, portable equipment
CON-09	Asbestos awareness	What to do when you find it — the biggest long-term killer
CON-10	Toolbox talks	Ten briefings with attendance sheets
CON-11	Forms pack	COSHH assessment, HAVS record, health surveillance, permits, inspections

3. The legal framework in one table

Regulation	What it requires of you	Pack reference
Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 s.2, s.3	Protect employees and anybody else affected by the work	All
CDM 2015	Duties on clients, principal designers, principal contractors and contractors. Plan, manage and monitor. Construction phase plan required.	CON-00
Work at Height Regulations 2005	Avoid work at height where you can; prevent falls where you cannot avoid it; mitigate the consequences where you cannot prevent	CON-01
COSHH 2002	Assess, prevent or control exposure to substances hazardous to health, including dust and cement	CON-02, CON-06
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Assess exposure, control it, health surveillance above the action value	CON-03
Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	Assess, control, hearing protection and health surveillance at the action values	CON-03
Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992	Avoid, assess, reduce	CON-04
PUWER 1998	Suitable equipment, maintained, inspected, and adequate training	CON-05
Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012	Duty to manage, and licensed work where required	CON-09
Electricity at Work Regulations 1989	Safe systems for electrical work and equipment	CON-08
CDM 2015 / HSG47	Safe digging and avoiding buried services	CON-07
RIDDOR 2013	Report specified injuries, over-7-day injuries, dangerous occurrences and certain diseases	CON-11

4. The order of work

Step	Do this	Time
1	Read CON-00 and decide which of the hazard documents actually apply to your work. Most groundwork firms need CON-01 to CON-07 as a minimum.	1 hr
2	Complete the site or task risk assessments in each relevant document. Be honest about what is not in place.	half a day
3	Do the COSHH assessments for the substances you actually use — dust, cement, resins, fuels (CON-02, CON-06, CON-11).	2 hrs
4	Start the vibration and noise exposure records. You cannot control what you have never measured (CON-03).	1 hr
5	Check tool inspection and PAT records, and 110V transformer arrangements (CON-05, CON-08).	1 hr
6	Build the training and competence matrix for the operatives, the same way as for machine operators.	1 hr
7	Brief everyone using the toolbox talks and get the sheets signed (CON-10).	2 hrs
8	Set up health surveillance where the assessments say it is needed — vibration, noise, respiratory, skin.	varies
9	Start the weekly site inspection and keep doing it (CON-11).	15 min weekly
10	Review after any incident, any change of method, and at least annually.	annual

5. Health surveillance — the bit almost nobody does

Where the risk assessment shows exposure above the action values, health surveillance is not optional. It exists to catch damage early, while it can still be stopped.

Hazard	Trigger	What surveillance looks like
Vibration (HAVS)	Exposure at or above the exposure action value of $2.5 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ A(8)}$, or where there is any other reason to suspect risk	Baseline questionnaire, then annual assessment by a qualified person, escalating to a doctor where symptoms appear
Noise	Exposure at or above the upper exposure action value of 85 dB(A), or at the lower value where workers may be particularly sensitive	Audiometry (hearing tests), usually on appointment then at intervals
Dust and respiratory	Where COSHH assessment identifies exposure to silica or other respiratory sensitisers	Respiratory questionnaire and lung function testing
Skin (cement, resins)	Work with wet cement, epoxies or other skin hazards	Skin checks by a responsible person, with referral where changes appear

Records must be kept. Health records for those under surveillance are normally kept for 40 years, because these diseases take decades to appear.