SAFETY BY DESIGN

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What is Safety by Design?



Why is it important?

Primary Cause of Accident in Construction Industry

- 37% : Management or worker failure
- 35%: Unsafe Design Ο
- 28%: Poor Planning Ο

- **Other Benefits**
 - Legal
 - **Reputation**



Legislative Requirements

Examples of legislative frameworks or design standards

- **United Kingdom**: Construction (Design & Management) CDM2015
- USA: National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health NIOSH's PtD
- o Australia: Work Health and Safety Regulations
- **Singapore**: Safety and Health Council WSHC

Design Standards

- o India: National Building Code
- United Kingdom: British Standards Institute BSI
- o USA: American National Standards Institution ANSI
- Europe: CE Standards CEN
- Singapore: Singapore Standards Council



Above all else we always need to consider:



The structures to be used as a workplace are safe and without risk to health



That we demonstrate we have approached design with a risk management and whole lifecycle approach



Ensured the designer has the right capabilities to design the specific project



That appropriate consultation, co-operation and co-ordination has occurred



We transfer the right information at the right time



Safety is a state of being protected from potential harm or something that has been designed to protect and prevent harm.



A <u>hazard</u> is any agent that can cause harm or damage to humans, property, or the environment.

Definitions



<u>Risk</u> is the possibility or chance of loss, danger or injury.



<u>Severity</u> describes the highest level of damage possible when an accident occurs from a particular hazard.



Likelihood is the state of being probable or chance of a threat occurring.

Risk Management

The application of hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control processes to achieve safe design.

The Designer should:

- Identify the client's main objectives and outcomes for the design.
- Establish the intended and foreseeable uses of the design as well as the complexity of the project.
- Establish the risk management context by identifying the breadth of workplace hazards and relevant applicable: - Legislation - Codes of practice - Design Standards.
- $\circ~$ Identify the required design disciplines, skills and competencies
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in relation to the project.
- Establish collaborative relationships with clients and others who influence the design outcome



Hierarchy of Control Measures



Design Process

Construction



Eliminate the hazard Reduce the hazard Isolate the hazard Control the hazard Personal Protective Equipment Discipline



RED

Hazardous procedures, products and processes that should be eliminated from the project where possible.

- Lack of adequate pre-construction information (such as asbestos surveys.
- Details of geology, obstructions, services, ground contamination and so on
- Hand-scabbling of concrete (such as 'stop ends')
- Demolition by hand-held breakers of the top sections of concrete piles (pile cropping techniques are available)
- Specification of fragile roof lights and roofing assemblies

Processes giving rise to large quantities of dust (such as dry cutting, blasting and so on)

On-site spraying of harmful substances

Specification of structural steelwork which is not purposely designed to accommodate safety nets

- Design of roof mounted services that require access (for maintenance and so on), without provision for safe access (such as barriers)
- Glazing that cannot be accessed safely.
- Entrances, floors, ramps, stairs and escalators not specifically designed to avoid slips and trips during use and maintenance
- Design of environments involving adverse lighting, noise, vibration, temperature, humidity and draughts during use and maintenance operations.

Designs of structures that do not allow for fire containment during construction.

AMBER

Products, processes and procedures to be eliminated or reduced as far as possible and only specified or allowed if unavoidable. Including amber items would always lead to the provision of information to the principal contractor.

- Internal manholes and inspection chambers in circulation areas
- External manholes in heavily used vehicle access zones
- Specification of 'lip' details (such as trip hazards) at the tops of pre-cast concrete staircases
- Specification of small steps (such as risers) in external paved areas
- Specification of heavy lintels. (Slim metal of hollow concrete lintels are better alternatives
- Large and heavy glass panels
- Chasing out concrete, brick or blockwork walls or floors for the installation of services.
- Specification of heavy building blocks (such as those weighing more than 20 kgs)
- Specification of solvent-based paints and thinners, or isocyanates, particularly for use in confined areas.
- Specification of curtain wall or panel systems without provision for tying or raking scaffolds.
- Specification of a blockwork wall more than 3.5 metres high using retarded mortar mixes.
- Site traffic routes that do not allow for one-way systems and/or vehicular traffic segregated from site personnel.
- Site layout that does not allow adequate room for delivery and/or storage of materials, including sitespecific components.
- Heavy construction components which cannot be handled using mechanical lifting devices (because of access restrictions/floor loading and so on).
- On-site welding, in particular for new structures.
- Use of large piling rigs and cranes near live railways and overhead electric power lines or where proximity to obstructions prevents guarding of rigs.

GREEN

Products, processes and procedures to be positively encouraged.

- Adequate access for construction vehicles to minimise reversing requirements (one-way systems and turning radii)
- Provision of adequate access and headroom for maintenance in plant room and adequate provision for replacing heavy components.
- Thoughtful location of mechanical and electrical equipment, light fittings, security devices and so on to facilitate access, and placed away from crowded areas
- Specification of concrete products with pre-cast fixings to avoid drilling
- Specification of half board sizes for plasterboard sheets to make handling easier
- Early installation of permanent means of access, and prefabricated staircases with hand rails
- Provision of edge protection at permanent works where there is a foreseeable risk of falls after handover
- Practical and safe methods of window cleaning (such as from the inside)

Appointment of a temporary works co-ordinator

- Off-site timber treatment if PPA-and CCA-based preservatives are used (boron or copper salts can be used for cut ends on site)
- Off-site fabrication and prefabricated elements to minimise on site hazards
- Encourage the use of engineering controls to minimise the use of personal protective equipment

Reviewing Control Measures

Principals of Prevention



Avoiding risks by asking yourself if you can get rid of the problem (or hazard) altogether



Evaluating the risks that cannot be avoided



Combating the risks at source



Adapting to technical progress: consider new techniques or technologies



Replacing the dangerous with the nondangerous or the less dangerous



Giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures



Making provisions so that the work can be organised to reduce exposure to hazards



Giving appropriate instructions to employees

Design Information



OBTAIN

- Pre-construction information.
- A client brief, including how the finished project will be used.
- \circ $\,$ Information on the site and ground conditions.
- The methods for communicating during the design.
- Information held by others (such as other designers).
- Sustainability objectives, for example: BREEAM, LEED, IGBC etc.

PROVIDE

- You need to provide the right level of information to the right people at the right time.
- Information should be project specific and of suitable and sufficient detail to those who need it.
- You should agree with the principal designer how information will be exchanged.
- Residual risks, if any.





Case Study(CS) 1 - Construction



Design spec:

- Dig groundwater monitoring wells at various locations.
- Wells located directly under overhead power lines.

Accident:

• Worker electrocuted when his drill rig got too close to overhead power lines.

Designer could have:

- specified wells be dug away from power lines; and/or
- better informed the contractor of hazard posed by wells' proximity to powerlines through the plans, specifications, and bid documents.

CS 2 – Operational (Cleaning and Maintenance)





CS 3- Fragile roof

CS 4 – Demolition



CS 5 – Health Hazards

- Chemical e.g. Welding fumes, Asbestos, high VOC paint etc.
- Physical e.g. Noise , vibration , radiation etc.
- Biological e.g. animal, insects, plants, sewage water etc.
- Ergonomic e.g. Manual handing, lifting and pushing, using wrong tools, poor grip or posture etc.



Example of Good Practice



ANY QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

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