

## Requirements for Suppliers

Health, Safety and Wellbeing



Prepared for:  
Suppliers including contractors and  
consultants

Prepared by:  
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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

MWH engage with suppliers to help deliver a diverse range of works and / or services in respect to water and wastewater installations, facilities and infrastructure at various locations.

### **1.1 Purpose**

This document has been produced for the use of management and supervisory staff of MWH and our supply chain community. The purpose of the document is to establish the minimum acceptable safety, health and wellbeing standards expected of all suppliers when working on behalf of MWH UK Ltd. All organisations working on behalf of MWH and their onward supply chain are required to implement the relevant standards and inform and instruct their employees and other personnel under their control on the requirements contained within this document.

### **1.2 Definitions**

Suppliers – people or organisations delivering a service as a whole or as individuals seconded into an MWH team, including those providing consultancy or contractor services. Suppliers include:

- Contractor – organisation undertaking physical, intrusive work, for example but not limited to survey, construction, commissioning, maintenance, pilot plants, demolition or decommissioning work.
- Agency supplied worker – people resource provided through a recruitment agency.
- Independent consultant – people resource provided as a limited company or sole trader, or a very small consulting organisation with less than five employees.

## **2 SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEGISLATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the requirements set out within this document, all work carried out by suppliers to MWH, shall be done so in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements. Management of all activities shall also take account of other applicable standards and publications such as British, European & International Standards and relevant guidance and publications from industry bodies that may enrich health and safety performance.

MWH clients may have also developed their own standards, relating to health, safety and wellbeing. The MWH Project Manager will bring any additional standards to the attention of the supplier.

### **3 PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDERING GUIDANCE**

MWH shall only award work to suppliers who can demonstrate a suitable level of safety, health and wellbeing competence and meet the pre-qualification criteria. Please refer to the MWH procurement team for information on pre-qualification and tendering requirements.

## **4 MANAGING CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT)**

Work undertaken by MWH includes construction activities and as such, the requirements of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 shall apply.

### **4.1 Accepting commissions**

No one working on behalf of MWH is to accept an appointment to undertake design or construction work without being able to demonstrate that they have the necessary health and safety skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the work.

Members of the supply community, who wish to sub-contract any work awarded by MWH, must ensure that they have robust arrangements in place for assessing and ensuring the ongoing competence of anyone they appoint.

### **4.2 Co-operation, co-ordination and communication**

MWH recognise that effective co-operation, co-ordination and communication between parties is fundamental to achieving good health and safety performance and safeguarding the health, safety and welfare for all concerned.

We will proactively support this collaborative approach ensuring that all work is co-ordinated and that there is clear communication between parties such that everyone understands the risks and measures put in place to control them.

### **4.3 Employee consultation**

Workplaces where people are consulted and engaged in decisions about health and safety are safer and healthier. MWH is committed to encouraging positive engagement with the workforce on all health and safety matters. We recognise that in addition to meeting health and safety legal obligations, effective consultation and engagement is a fundamental mechanism for achieving health and safety excellence.

All suppliers are encouraged to engage with their personnel and establish mechanisms for involving personnel in the development and implementation of effective health and safety policies, procedures and safe systems of work. Arrangements for ensuring worker engagement may include:

- Personnel understanding that they are allowed to stop work if they feel at risk
- Details of the mechanism for raising health and safety concerns
- Regular visits by senior managers to engage
- All personnel addressing others in a civil manner
- Opportunities for worker involvement when producing safe systems of work
- Personnel being encouraged to participate and comment on 'toolbox talks' and other briefings
- Taking reported health, safety and wellbeing issues seriously and not being negative or critical



- Recognition and respect of trade unions, appointed safety representatives and the benefits of their involvement (representatives of employee safety or direct communication with employees in small organisations or where no union is present).

#### **4.4 Designers (including Principal Designer)**

The earliest decisions in a project can fundamentally affect the health, safety and wellbeing of those who will construct, operate and maintain the finished asset. Health and safety must therefore be at the forefront of the design approach with a key focus to be on the elimination or reduction of hazards and risk.

##### 4.4.1 Principal Designers

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 includes the role of Principal Designer. Where MWH accepts the role of Principal Designer, MWH will:

- Plan, manage and monitor the pre-construction phase, co-ordinating matters to ensure proper management of hazards and risks
- Take into account the principles of prevention and consider the contents of any relevant health and safety file and other information held by the client
- Identify and eliminate or control foreseeable risks, so far as is reasonably practicable. Information on residual risks will be included within the pre-construction information and passed to those who will be undertaking the construction activity.

##### 4.4.2 Designers

Designers are reminded of their duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and the key aspects of compliance including:

- Manage risks by applying the principles of prevention
- Cooperating and communicating with others and coordinating work
- Take account of any pre-construction information
- Provide information with the design to the Principal Designer, Principal Contractor or anyone else who may need it.

The HSE have produced 'red, amber, green' lists of process and substances that should be considered when developing the design. The lists are contained within Appendix A of this document.

#### **4.5 Contractors (including Principal Contractors)**

The Principal Contractor co-ordinates the construction activities, ensuring that work practices promote good management of health and safety on site. Where the role of Principal Contractor is accepted by MWH, we will:

- Take account of the general principles of prevention in planning, managing, monitoring and co-ordinating the construction phase
- Liaise with the Principal Designer and client (Principal Contractor)
- Provide suitable information, instructions and supervision commensurate with the complexity and risk of the work

## Requirements for Contractors & Suppliers

### Health, Safety and Wellbeing

#### Managing Construction (Design and Management)

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- Ensure that individuals working for, or on behalf of, MWH have the necessary skills, knowledge, training and experience to carry out work in a way which protects the health, safety and wellbeing of others
- Ensure continued safety on site by providing suitable inductions, preventing unauthorised access, providing welfare facilities and complying with the requirements of Part 4 of the CDM Regulations (Principal Contractor)
- Comply with directions given by the Principal Contractor & Designer and contained in the construction phase plan (contractor)
- Consult and engage with people carrying out construction work.

Anyone who directly employs or engages construction workers or managing construction is a contractor. Duties on contractors apply whether the workers under their control are employees, self-employed or agency workers.

#### **4.6 Construction Phase Plan (CPP)**

Pre-construction information must be provided to the Contractor / Principal Contractor so they can use the information contained within to develop the Construction Phase Plan.

The Contractor / Principal Contractor will develop a Construction Phase Plan, for all construction work, before setting up site. This should be submitted to MWH at least 10 days prior to site set up to allow opportunity to review and comment.

#### **4.7 Health and Safety File**

Health and Safety Files will be developed and passed to the Client for retention. These will be developed by the Principal Designer and Principal Contractor with input from others, including suppliers, as appropriate.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **5.1 Risk assessment**

A site-specific risk assessment is required for all work activities where significant hazards are present. These may be based on model risk assessments but must be adapted and further enhanced to consider the working environment of the activity. Examples could include working in the highway, operational areas, schools etc. Risk assessments must be reviewed by MWH prior to work commencing. Suppliers must ensure that everyone involved in the activity is briefed on the findings of any risk assessments in a clear concise manner so that they understand:

- What control measures have been put in place for their protection
- What action is expected of them
- What to do if the control measures cannot be implemented or do not provide adequate protection.

Signatures of those briefed must be obtained and kept for review.

### **5.2 Safe systems of work**

For many activities, properly prepared risk assessments are sufficient to manage the risks. However, where the task is particularly complex or where the sequence of events is paramount to maintaining safety, the risk assessment may need to be supplemented by a method statement and necessary permits.

Where required, safe systems of work must be provided to a member of MWH for review, at least 10 days prior to the activity commencing.

### **5.3 Permits**

Work activities of a high risk or complex nature will require additional control in the form of permits. Activities requiring the issue of a permit include:

- Breaking ground / excavation
- Hot works
- Confined spaces
- Specialist lifting operations (including with cranes)
- Lifting with excavators.

All permits must be issued by a competent person from the supplier, who has been nominated and given authority (in writing) to do so.

### **5.4 Daily activity / pre-task briefing**

To ensure workers are put to work safely on a daily basis, supervisors or others in control of the work activity on static sites should deliver a pre-task or daily briefing to everyone under their control. Pre-task briefings should take place at the point of work and include:

- A brief description of the work including diagrams as appropriate
- Task specific risks (including those related to the working environment)

- Control measures required to manage the risks
- Details of any permits or authorisations required
- Emergency arrangements
- Contact details for reporting and escalation purposes.

#### 5.4.1 Client Authorisations

Clients may have specific requirements and authorisations when working on their assets. Their purpose is usually to provide a two-way transfer of key information relating to existing hazards and the work being carried out. When working on a Clients operational asset, it is essential that suppliers working on behalf of MWH obtain information about any site-specific hazards that may affect the health, safety and welfare of those undertaking the activity.

It is essential that the MWH Project Manager is aware of site-specific hazards so they are communicated to the supplier(s).

### 5.5 Monitoring

Suppliers must ensure that all work activities are subject to regular routine monitoring and inspection by competent persons. The purpose of such inspections is to ensure that work activities are being carried out accordance with relevant legislative requirements and local standards identified in risk assessments, health and safety plans, site rules etc. Actions arising from all inspection and monitoring activities must be documented and monitored until resolution.

In addition and as part of demonstrating management commitment to safety, health and wellbeing arrangements must be in place for effective monitoring of work activities by all levels of managements. Arrangements must include ensuring that inspections are carried out at a frequency which is suitable for the nature of the work provide clear instructions / guidance to managers on what to look for and how to deal with actions arising.

### 5.6 Emergency Arrangements

Suppliers working on behalf of MWH shall have a set of site / activity specific emergency arrangements for incidents including, fire, flooding, evacuation and summoning the emergency services etc. These arrangements must be notified to management, displayed on site (where static) and brought to the attention of all relevant personnel.

Such arrangements must be regularly tested to ensure ongoing adequacy and effectiveness.

### 5.7 Incident reporting

Incidents must be reported to MWH as soon as reasonably practicable but always by the end of the working day.

This must be followed by a written report identifying the facts and circumstances (as known at the time) of the incident.

MWH require that all incidents are investigated. The level of investigation should be in proportion to the severity of the incident, identifying the following as a minimum:

- Key details of the incident (circumstances, personnel involved, environment etc.)
- Immediate action taken
- Analysis of assessment of risk and application of safe system of work
- Immediate and root causes
- Constructive recommendations in the form of an action plan, based on the identified causes, which are both achievable and attainable.

Clients may have additional requirements for reporting incidents. Where these exist, the MWH Project Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with client's requirements.

### **5.8 Dangerous condition / hazards / near miss reporting**

Everyone has a duty to report instances where they or others are working in a way that puts them or anyone else in danger. Any such instances must be reported to the person in control of the work.

MWH recognise the benefits of near miss reporting and encourages our suppliers to report hazards and near misses using HSF 001.03 – improvement opportunity - BOB cards, or using the online BOB reporting system via the MWH Project Manager.

## 6 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

It is the express aim of MWH that we protect the health and enhance the wellbeing of our people and suppliers.

MWH suppliers are encouraged to participate actively in improving the health and wellbeing of their employees. Competent personnel are available within MWH to support its suppliers in developing strategies to reduce exposure to health risks, provide guidance on monitoring performance and the promotion of health and fitness, as part of a holistic approach to improving health and wellbeing.

MWH support a proactive health, safety and wellbeing culture by raising awareness of both work related and lifestyle health through campaigns, communication materials and workshops.

### 6.1 Worker

#### 6.1.1 Fitness to Work

Suppliers are expected to ensure that their personnel are fit to do the job for which they have been employed. Personnel who are deemed to undertake 'safety critical' roles should be subject to regular medical assessments. Those undertaking non-safety critical works should be evaluated by a health questionnaire with referrals by the employing company for further checks, as required.

#### 6.1.2 Personal medical assessments

The health and wellbeing of everyone working for MWH is of paramount importance and we understand the benefits of having a healthy workforce. As such, MWH encourage its suppliers to provide personal medical assessments at regular intervals. Regular assessments offer an opportunity for health professionals to provide information to individuals on their health and wellbeing and provide advice and guidance enabling people to make informed choices about their own health and wellbeing.

These assessments will complement the monitoring provided to safety critical workers and those who are subject to health surveillance.

#### 6.1.3 Management of ill health

All suppliers should ensure that arrangements are in place to manage individual health problems when they arise. Support should be provided to assist the individual to remain in work or to return to work as soon as possible.

Where a case of ill health (individual) is identified, a risk assessment should be carried out which considers:

- The normal activities carried out and how these affect the problem or recovery
- The recovery requirements as advised by a suitably qualified health professional
- Activities that should be prohibited in order to prevent exacerbation of the problem or hinders recovery.

The risk assessment should be reviewed by a suitable qualified occupational health professional. It must be agreed to by the individual and monitored at suitable intervals.

#### 6.1.4 Fatigue management

MWH recognises that fatigue can directly affect a number of key physical and mental abilities. Suppliers must ensure that due consideration is given to the effect of working hours, travel time and shift patterns. A risk assessment should identify:

- The activities and hazards which can put people at risk of fatigue
- Personnel who are at risk of fatigue
- Measures required to eliminate or alleviate the risks.

## 6.2 Workplace

### 6.2.1 Risk assessment

Physical and psychological health risks should be included for consideration and evaluation in all general risk assessments.

Activity / task specific risk assessments should include the following where identified as hazards:

- Physical agents (noise and vibration)
- Contact with substances hazardous to health
- Musculoskeletal risks and the ergonomic environment.

Role based health and wellbeing assessments must be completed for personnel, considering the following:

- Working hours, repetitive tasks and fatigue
- Physiological and psychological health risks presented by the tasks performed
- Key stressors in the performance of the role which can be reasonably identified as having an impact on wellbeing.

### 6.2.2 Health surveillance

Suppliers must have in place, health surveillance arrangements to check the health status of personal exposed, or potentially exposed to significant health risks. Exposure to the following hazards could require ongoing monitoring in the form of health surveillance:

- Vibration - Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
- Noise – audiometry
- Confined space – fitness to enter
- Regular night work
- Skin exposure to substances
- Respiratory exposure to substances / agents.

## 6.3 Wellbeing

### 6.3.1 Psychological wellbeing

The Health and Safety Executive defines stress as 'the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed on them'.

MWH recognises that stress can have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of those working with us and is committed to reduce any work related causes of stress and to provide support, where possible, to personnel where personal or external factors are the source of stress.

MWH supports the management standards developed by the HSE in this respect. These standards cover the primary sources of stress at work. They are:

- **Demands** including workload, work patterns and the working environment
- **Control** how much say the person has in the way they do their work
- **Support** includes encouragement, sponsorship and resources provided by the organisation, management and colleagues
- **Relationships** includes promoting positive working to avoid conflicts and dealing with unacceptable behaviour
- **Role** whether people understand their role within the organisation and whether the organisation encourages that they do not have conflicting roles
- **Change** how organisational change (large or small) is managed and communicated in the organisation

These management standards represent a set of conditions that, if present, reflect a high level of health and wellbeing.



## 7 TRAINING AND COMPETENCE

MWH are committed to promoting the need for competency development within our suppliers. To demonstrate this commitment and recognising that training is a key component of competence, it is a requirement for everyone working for MWH to have undertaken health and safety related training at a level that is commensurate with their role.

### 7.1 Induction

MWH has developed an induction briefing that will be given to all supplier personnel, before they commence work on an MWH site / office.

From time to time, it may be necessary for a person to receive a re-induction, for example due to a period of absence lasting more than one month.

### 7.2 Specific role competencies

MWH has established minimum health and safety training requirements (role dependent) that all suppliers working on behalf of MWH are encouraged to hold, or be working towards. These are:

- Managing and Operational Directors should attend a one day IOSH Leading or Directing Safely course
- All site managers should hold a valid site managers safety training scheme (SMSTS) certificate or NEBOSH certificate
- Anyone who is responsible for putting people to work on sites, for example, supervisors and team leaders, should hold a valid site supervisors safety training scheme (SSSTS) certificate or equivalent.
- All confined space courses attended must meet the City & Guilds 6150 standard
- Anyone who works or supervises work in the proximity of underground services shall have attended a service avoidance training course consisting of both theory and practical sessions
- Anyone who is required to use cable avoidance equipment must be trained on the use of the equipment
- At least one member of each team to be trained in emergency first aid
- All plant training to be accredited to CPCS, NPORS or other national scheme
- All teams working on the public highway to be NRSWA trained to appropriate level
- All designers, including those undertaking Principal Designer duties, must be able to demonstrate CDM Awareness training or equivalent. Training should include in their approach to Designing for Health and Safety.

The MWH Project Manager will inform the supplier of any project/Client specific training requirements.

## **8 OPERATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

### **8.1 Welfare**

Ensuring that everyone has access to adequate welfare arrangements is a fundamental requirement, especially in the environment in which we work. Good facilities can positively benefit health and well-being and can help prevent ill health. Suppliers must ensure that suitable welfare facilities are provided for all work activities, taking into account the nature and duration of work.

This means providing:

- Access to suitable toilet and washing facilities (using hot and cold running water where possible). The following hierarchy should be adopted:
  - Fixed facility on site
  - Fixed welfare unit within 10 minute journey
  - Mobile water flushing unit on site (min requirement for work exceeding two weeks duration)
  - Mobile chemical flushing unit on site (suitable for work up to two weeks)
  - Chemical toilet plus hand washing in vehicle (for work lasting 3-5 days)
  - Local facilities with hand washing in vehicle (for work lasting 1-2 days)
- Ample supply of clean fresh drinking water from mains supply, or in suitable containers
- Facilities to store and dry wet clothes
- A means of heating water and food
- Facilities and rest / eating areas, maintained in a clean and hygienic condition

All facilities should be within a 10-minute journey from the work location.

### **8.2 Visitors / visiting workers**

Every effort must be made to ensure that unauthorised visitors do not enter work sites. Children and animals are not allowed on any MWH sites, either as pedestrians or in vehicles.

MWH recognises that situations may arise when it is necessary for occasional visitors or visiting workers such as delivery drivers, plant fitters etc. to attend site. Visitors or personnel who will be working on site for a period of less than one day and who do not receive a full induction must as a minimum be:

- Issued with information identifying the site safety rules and site-specific hazards
- Provided with appropriate PPE and advised on its correct use where required
- Accompanied at all times by a competent person, who is formally allocated responsibility for the visitor (including in the event of an emergency)

Drivers delivering goods and materials should remain with their vehicles, except to visit welfare facilities or offices to deal with paperwork. When outside of the vehicle, all drivers / operators must wear appropriate PPE and be under direct supervision when away from the vehicle.

### 8.3 Mobile phones

The inappropriate use of mobile phones / smart devices during work activities, for example whilst driving or operating plant / equipment, represents a significant risk of harm to the user and others around them. Therefore, the use of mobile phones for making or receiving calls, emails or text messages shall only be permitted outside of the working area or in designated safe areas on the site. Mobile phone usage is permitted inside welfare facilities or offices, however their use on landings and whilst climbing stairs is discouraged.

If calls are made to either MWH staff or supplier staff, and it is found individuals have responded when driving, the call should be immediately terminated. Further information can be found in the MWH Document HSGD 011.02 'The facts about mobile phones and driving'.

### 8.4 Personal Protective Equipment

Suppliers shall ensure that everyone is provided and wears the following mandatory PPE when on an MWH site.

- Hi-visibility outer layer to EN471: Class 3
  - Long sleeved for all personnel
- Head protection to EN 397
  - To be worn at all times on an operational site to protect the head against the risk of injury either from falling materials or from striking the head against projections.
  - Sikhs wearing turbans do not need to wear head protection, however consideration must be given to ensure they remain safe whilst undertaking their tasks.
- Safety footwear to EN345
  - Safety footwear must include mid-sole protection and have a covered steel toe cap
  - Footwear should be provided which is most suitable for the activity they are carrying out and focus on reducing the risk of foot / ankle injury. Anyone undertaking excavation activities must be provided with footwear with metatarsal protection as a minimum. Metatarsal protection may also be provided where a significant risk of foot injury is highlighted during the risk assessment process.
  - When working with asbestos, boots without laces should be worn to assist with decontamination.

Where the need for additional PPE is identified during the risk assessment process, an assessment must be made to ensure that all items are compatible. The following standards apply to task specific PPE:

- Eye Protection to EN166.1.F
  - Visitors and worker who wear prescription spectacles may use over spectacles on an occasional basis but prescription safety glasses are recommended for site workers and continued use
  - Where impact protection is required, eye protection must meet EN 166 1B 349.
  - Face visors are to be worn where a risk of liquid drops or splashes is identified. Visors must be to standard EN 166 1F3

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#### Operational health and safety management

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- Hand protection to EN388
  - Task specific hand protection will be outlined in the risk assessment
- Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) to FFP3
  - Anyone who is required to wear RPE as a control measure for a specific activity must be face fit tested. Please note that RPE should be worn in addition to undertaking dust suppression.
  - Wearers of full or half-face masks must be clean-shaven to enable a seal to be made between the mask and their face; long hair or sideburns can create problems as they can become trapped in the seal and cause leaks.
- Flame retardant / arc resistant clothing
  - Anyone carrying out excavation work in the vicinity of underground services or if as a result of the risk assessment process, the need to wear flame retardant and arc resistant clothing is identified, such clothing should meet the standards below:

EN ISO 11612:2008 A1, B1, C1

EN 61482-1-2 Class 1

The MWH Project Manager will inform the supplier of any project/client specific PPE requirements.

### 8.5 Drugs and alcohol

MWH is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment and understands how the inappropriate use of drugs, alcohol and other substances can adversely affect a person's judgment, behaviour, capability, safety and health.

MWH will work with suppliers to provide information, education and guidance on the effects and symptoms of alcohol, drug and substance abuse to safeguard our workplaces and activities from the effect of these risks and as part of our commitment to maintain a safe and healthy working environment for everyone.

The following rules apply to everyone working on behalf of MWH activities regardless of their employer.

No one shall:

- Report or try to report for work (at any point during the working day) when under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances
- Be in possession of illegal drugs in the workplace, or prescription drugs which have not been specifically prescribed to the individual
- Be in possession of alcohol at work with the intention to consume at work or during working hours
- Consume alcohol or illegal drugs or misuse any substance whilst at work
- Allow or promote the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs or the misuse of any substance

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#### Operational health and safety management

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Suppliers working for MWH must have in place, arrangements for the following:

- Pre-employment drugs and alcohol testing
- For-cause testing, in the event of a suspected breach of the above rules.
- Random drugs and alcohol testing programme
- Support available for those who seek assistance.

Suppliers may be subject to project/Client specific requirements. The MWH Project Manager will inform the supplier of any additional requirements.

Independent consultants and agency-supplied workers are subject to the MWH testing policy as above. Failure to participate in a drug and alcohol test, or the receipt of a positive test, will result in the exclusion of the person from the MWH premises/site.

#### 8.5.1 Limits

The maximum drug and alcohol blood levels for all suppliers working on behalf of MWH are based on the national limits set for driving, regardless of whether the person is driving or not.

- Drugs: Recent introduction of new legislation means that it is now illegal to drive if either:
  - You're unfit to do so because you're on illegal or legal drugs
  - You have a specified level of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they have not affected your driving).
- Alcohol: The maximum blood alcohol levels are currently 35 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood, in England and Wales and 22 milligrams in Scotland.

Please be aware however, that MWH's clients may set their own tolerance levels that may be lower than that stated above. Where these are set, the higher standard shall take precedence. Any breach of the above rules, or those set by a client will be referred to the individual's employing organisation, to be dealt with in line with their guidance and rules, including any disciplinary action where appropriate. Breaches of the above rules will result in the individual being removed from undertaking MWH activities.

## 8.6 First aid

Suppliers must ensure that, when undertaking construction work, at least one member of a team is trained in emergency first aid. On larger static construction sites and in depots there will be a least one trained first aider on site at all times.

## **8.7 Non-English speaking personnel**

Personnel who are not competent in the English language are permitted if it can be demonstrated that:

- Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that instructions are communicated effectively and understood by all team members
- Other team members are able to provide oral instructions and warning to non-English speaking personnel
- Everyone has received training to the same standard.

## 9 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONAL HAZARDS

Suppliers must exercise caution on site against hazards, some of which are common to the construction industry in general and others that are industry specific.

Site-specific hazards must be identified whilst planning work activities. Suppliers must adopt a hierarchical approach to managing hazards and their associated risks, recognising that elimination should always be the first focus.

### 9.1 Excavations (including temporary works)

Excavation activities can only commence following the development of a risk assessment and safe system of work.

Suppliers must ensure that excavation activities do not take place until a permit to break ground / permit to dig has been completed and issued.

Once work commences, suppliers must ensure that the following are considered and necessary controls implemented:

- Assessment of ground type, stability and requirement for temporary works
- Service location, identification and protection
- Suitable excavation support (required to prevent collapse for all excavation >1.2m deep and where necessitated by ground conditions)
- Defined method when battering or stepping an excavation
- Suitable edge protection to prevent people and materials falling
- Competent and sufficient resources - supervision and workforce
- Access and egress, including in an emergency
- Arrangements for daily inspection and weekly statutory examination

### 9.2 Underground services

Underground services represent one of the most significant hazards present when excavating. Prior to any activity taking place where the ground is to be broken, designers must make every effort, following industry guidance, to identify the presence of and locate all underground services in the vicinity, that may impact on the health and safety of the workforce and members of the public. In order to safeguard personnel and prevent harm through contact with underground services the following shall apply:

- When excavating in areas that are particularly congested with services or have known complex arrangements, the supplier shall consider the use of ground penetrating radar to improve confidence in the location of underground services.
- All supervisors and operatives engaged in work activities on or near services must have attended a minimum one-day service avoidance course (consisting of both theoretical and practical session).
- All cable avoidance tools (CAT) must be of the type that can log data for later download and examination.
- Anyone who is expected to locate underground services must be provided with a Genny

- All users of CAT and Genny equipment must be trained in its use and limitations
- All utility damage (including pre-existing) must be reported to MWH
- All hand excavation around services should be carried out using fully insulated tools. Planned works should consider the use of vacuum excavation or use of an air lance where ground conditions allow. Air lances should be available for teams to use.

### 9.3 Temporary works

Temporary works must be designed, constructed, used and dismantled in accordance with the guidance contained in BS5975 - Code of practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework.

A competent person within the supplier organisation must assess all excavations less than 1.2m in depth to determine any requirement for temporary support. All excavations deeper than 1.2m shall be adequately supported, battered or stepped to an approved design.

A temporary works co-ordinator must be appointed with the responsibility for the co-ordination of all activities related to temporary works on MWH sites.

Suppliers must ensure that all temporary works are installed / constructed in accordance with the design provided. The temporary works designer must first approve any required deviation from the design.

The presence of hoardings or signage on open mesh fencing can greatly affect wind loading and has led to injuries to members of public because of fencing blowing over. An approved temporary works design is required prior to erection of hoardings or signage being placed on open mesh fences.

Temporary works designs must also be produced for works associated with support of vertical reinforcement cages and walls, prior to concrete pour, to ensure they do not collapse / fall over.

### 9.4 Working at height

Working at height remains one of the most hazardous activities and biggest cause of serious injuries in any industry. Taking measures to eliminate the risk of working at height, where possible, giving priority to collective measure over individual measures, will help protect the safety of our workforce and others who may be affected by our work activities.

Suppliers will minimise the risk of falls by adopting the minimum standards outlined below:

#### 9.4.1 Edge protection

- All edge protection shall be a minimum of 950mm high and include a 150mm toe board and intermediate guard rail, such that there is no vertical gap exceeding 470mm. Additional protection in the form of netting / guards will be provided where there is a foreseeable risk of tools or material falling
- All edge protection must be of sturdy construction, so as to prevent breach by a person falling against it
- Edge protection must be erected, maintained and dismantled by competent persons



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- Where practicable, physical stops will be used to prevent vehicles and other mobile plant impacting the edge protection
- Edge protection on excavations must be designed and erected in a manner which does not impede safe access and egress.

#### 9.4.2 Ladders

- Ladders are only to be used as a means of access / egress from one level to another or for short duration light work (where the task allows three points of contact to be maintained)
- When working at height, equipment should be selected following the appropriate hierarchical approach. Preference should be given to the use of working platforms, for example, mobile scaffold, mobile elevating work platform or podium steps
- The use of trestle platforms is prohibited
- All ladders must have a unique identification, be inspected prior to use and on a weekly basis by a competent person. All inspections must be recorded
- All equipment used for working at height must be erected, operated and maintained by competent persons who have received the required training.

#### 9.4.3 Open edges and openings

- All work activities must be planned such that there are never exposed (unprotected), edges or floor openings
- All edges and opening at excavations, slabs, floors, decking etc., must at all times be effectively protected, using edge protection, to prevent people and / or materials falling through
- Wherever possible all openings and excavations, especially those in public areas, should be securely covered and fenced if left unattended
- Covers over openings should be secured in position to prevent unintentional movement and be clearly marked 'danger hole below' or similar.

### 9.5 Working over or near water

Work activities should be planned to avoid the need to work near water where possible.

When working near water collective protective measures should be provided in the first instance. Where this is not possible, personal fall arrest equipment may be used.

### 9.6 Working in the highway

Suppliers must ensure that everyone working in the highway is trained to the appropriate level.

All works are to follow the requirements set out in the 'red book' code of practice, wherever possible.

Site specific traffic management plans must be developed, implemented and monitored where it is not possible to establish a standard layout set out in the 'red book'. Traffic management plans should be in line with Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 requirements.

Managers must ensure that teams are provided with sufficient equipment to establish a safe working layout for road works and street works.

### 9.7 Lifting operations

Suppliers must ensure that all lifting operations are planned and co-ordinated by a lifting appointed person.

Anyone with specific appointments e.g. crane supervisor, machine operator and slinger / signaller must be trained and competent to carry out their duties. These people must be in possession of a Construction Plant Competence Scheme card (CPCS) or National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS).

Excavator operators who are engaged in lifting activities must be competent in lifting with an excavator, familiar with rated capacity indicators, the duty chart for the equipment and understand the use of quick hitch attachments. Excavators are not to be used for lifting people under any circumstances.

All equipment use for lifting must be fitted with hose rupture check valves and be subject to statutory inspection, examinations and tests as set out in the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations.

A competent person (usually the operator) must check all lifting equipment and accessories daily.

An excavator used for lifting must be fitted with the following equipment and is only permitted to lift once an 'excavator lifting' permit has been issued:

- Object handling table with diff. radius
- Load hooking device (hooks must be fitted with a clip)
- If maximum lift is over 1000kg (1 tonne), a boom lowering control e.g. hose burst check valves
- Acoustic or visual limiter / indicator
- Outriggers / blades to manufacturers standards
- All attachments must be compatible, have the SWL indicated and be included within the weight of the load

A defect reporting system must be in place to ensure that defects are noted, corrected and equipment / accessories taken out of service, where necessary.

Acceptable types of quick-hitch on MWH work activities are:

Lifting equipment	Quick hitch
8t and over	Double locking fully automatic
Between 3t and 8t	Manual or double locking fully automatic
3t and below	Manual only

Semi-automatic quick hitches are not permitted on any MWH work activity.

#### **9.8 COSHH**

Suppliers shall make every effort to minimise the use of hazardous substances through effective elimination and substitution practices. Any material / process outlined on the red / amber / green list should be avoided (see Appendix 1).

Relevant COSHH assessments, based on manufacturers' material data sheets must be easily available on site to anyone using the substance.

#### **9.9 Asbestos**

Suppliers may find asbestos containing materials during normal work activities. There are known geographical areas where the presence of asbestos cement mains are more likely to occur. Personnel who carry out work activities that could give unintentional asbestos disturbance, for example those carrying out intrusive structural work in buildings, must have attended a half-day asbestos awareness course.

Where work activities require the disturbance or removal of asbestos containing materials, MWH arrange for this work to be carried out in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations. Only a specialist contractor who is licensed and approved by the Health and Safety Executive will carry out this work. Under no circumstances should the original supplier attempt to remove asbestos using its own personnel.

#### **9.10 Manual handling**

Manual handling hazards must be identified as part of the risk assessment process and an emphasis placed on using mechanical lifting aids / equipment wherever possible.

#### **9.11 Confined spaces**

Through good design, MWH is committed to avoiding the need to work in confined spaces. Suppliers must not permit any person to enter a confined space without the permission of MWH. All working in confined spaces will be controlled by strict adherence to an agreed safe system of work.

All personnel working in confined spaces must have attended a nationally accredited training course (such as City & Guilds or Water UK) which is commensurate with their role. Occasionally it is acceptable for people to have attended a training course run by the local water utility, providing they are working within that region. The MWH Project Manager will confirm any client specific confined space training arrangements.

#### **9.12 Plant and equipment**

##### **9.12.1 Existing fixed plant & equipment**

When working on, or around existing plant and equipment, be aware of the following:

- Some equipment starts automatically with no warning
- Never operate a control switch or valve unless authorised

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- Keep doors to electrical switch rooms and panels closed and locked
- Isolate all equipment and obtain relevant permits prior to working on a system
- Place danger notices and ensure lock off controls are in place
- Never operate plant or equipment with a danger notice on it
- Never break into any commissioned or operational service pipe or main without a written permit for that operation

#### 9.12.2 Supplier plant and equipment

When selecting and using plant and equipment, it is essential that:

- All personnel using plant and equipment are competent to do. In some cases, it is necessary for the person to attend formal training as part of their demonstration of competence. For example, those operating construction plant should be accredited to CPCS or NPORS standards.
- Plant and equipment selected must be suitable for the working environment. Consider the ground conditions, nearby operations, specification of the plant / equipment, visibility / protection of the operator and guarding arrangements.
- All plant / equipment must be regularly inspected and tested. This includes daily visual checks by the operator, regular more thorough inspections carried out by a competent person and periodic servicing in accordance with manufacturer / industry recommendation.
- Any defects identified must be remedied immediately or reported and the vehicle put out of service. Records of inspection, maintenance and repairs must be kept.
- A person who has successfully completed the 'IPAF MEWPS for Managers' course must plan all activities involving the use of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS).
- The use of 1 tonne dumpers is prohibited unless approved by MWH SHEQual team and subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.
- Controls are in place to segregate people from plant to prevent crushing/struck by type injuries.

#### 9.13 Tunnelling

All shaft, tunnelling and heading activities must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Confined Space Regulations and BS6164 – Code of Practice for Safety in Tunnelling in the Construction Industry.

Attention is also drawn to the Tunnelling and Pipejacking: Guidance for Designers (produced jointly between HSE, British Tunnelling Society and the Pipe Jacking Association) which provides information on drive lengths and internal dimensions of tunnels and headings.

#### 9.14 Vulnerable road users

Suppliers working on behalf of MWH, with the potential to affect vulnerable road users, must ensure that other road users are afforded sufficient protection from work activities. In particular, consideration must be given to the guidance given in the 'Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety' (CLOCS). The guidance includes reference to safety devices which should be fitted to

vehicles in order to safeguard, in particular, pedestrian and cyclist safety. It also provides guidance on driver training and other aspects of managing occupational road risks.

MWH expects all suppliers to meet or have a plan in place to meet the standard.

#### **9.15 Scaffold**

Only suppliers who are full members of the National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) are to be employed to erect 'tube and fitting' standard and designed scaffold.

Scaffolds must be designed, erected, altered and dismantled by competent personnel and in accordance with NASC Guidance documents such as TG20, SG25 and SG4.

All scaffolders must be in possession of a Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) card. Anyone with a labourer's card must work in a position of safety at all times

Scaffolding must be regularly inspected by a competent person who has been specifically trained on scaffold inspection.

#### **9.16 Protecting the public**

Suppliers must ensure that all site boundaries are defined physically by suitable fencing. The appropriate selection of fencing shall be subject to risk assessment. The risk assessment must address the issues of public protection and should consider the following as a minimum:

- Location of works e.g. hazards associated with working on public highway including the speed limits, road use and visibility. Alternatively work may be carried out across open fields with little or no space restrictions
- Environment – nearby schools, hospitals
- General security – protection against vandalism and theft of equipment
- Duration of the work
- Nature of work being undertaken, for example, deep excavations
- Attendance on site – whether personnel are present or not

All fencing must be erected in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. Fencing must not be altered in any way that could affect their stability, for example by adding signage to open mesh fencing without a temporary works design.

The feet of fencing that protrudes into the working or public area is to be a conspicuous colour and easily visible to prevent trips.

Arrangements must be in place to facilitate inspection and maintenance of temporary fences. Controls may include nominating an individual to undertake regular inspections. The frequency of any inspection regime will depend upon the identified level of risk.

#### **9.17 Dust, noise and vibration**

Poor management of activities that produce dust, noise and vibration can have a significant effect on the health of those who are exposed to it. These health hazards should be considered alongside traditional safety hazards as part of an effective risk assessment process.

Suppliers must ensure that effective plans are in place to mitigate, manage and monitor the risk associated with dust, noise and vibration, giving due consideration to the hierarchy of control. Where a risk assessment identifies the need for respiratory protective equipment (RPE), such equipment must be face-fit tested using qualitative or quantitative techniques.

Regular monitoring of noise and vibration must be carried out on site to verify that risk control systems are effective.

#### **9.18 Electrical safety**

All electrical installations must be planned, installed, maintained and inspected by a trained and competent person. Suppliers must comply with the requirements of HSG141 'Electrical Safety on Construction Sites' and have written arrangements in place for the inspection and testing of all portable electric tools.

When used on site all portable electric tools, must be inspected prior to use, every month thereafter, and be tested / inspected every three months as a minimum.

All generators must be suitably earthed with the following exceptions:

- For small-scale work of less than one day duration, portable generators with outputs up to 10kva need not be earthed, provided that they are only used with Class II (double insulated, or all insulated) tools and equipment
- Small, single phase generators used for 110v supplies (ratings up to 5kVA) need not be earthed if all of the equipment used is double insulated, or it supplies only one item of earthed equipment and the equipment is bonded with the frame of the generator.

The following appliances are not permitted on site:

- Radiant space heaters unless with the consent of MWH SHEQual team
- Heaters without thermal overload
- 3KW heaters used in conjunction with a 13-amp plug and socket – fixed heaters must be wired directly into the wall socket
- Tubular heaters not fitted with a wire cage
- Portable and hand held tools for use with voltages above 110v
- 240V chargers for cordless power tools are only permitted following approval by the MWH SHEQual team and only then in agreed designated locations.

APPENDIX A

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RAG Lists

#### RED LISTS

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

- Lack of adequate pre-construction information (e.g. asbestos surveys, details of geology, obstructions, services, ground contamination and so on)
- Hand-scabbling of concrete (e.g. '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 (e.g. 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
- Designing roof mounted services that require access (for maintenance and so on), without provision for safe access (e.g. barriers)
- Glazing that cannot be accessed safely. All glazing should be anticipated as requiring cleaning replacement, so a safe system of access is essential
- Entrances, floors, ramps, stairs and escalators not specifically designed to avoid slips and trips during use and maintenance, including taking into account the effect of rain water and spillages
- Design of environments involving adverse lighting, noise, vibration, temperature, wetness, humidity and draughts or chemical and / or biological conditions during use and maintenance operations
- Designs of structures that do not allow for fire containment during construction

#### AMBER LISTS

**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 (i.e. trip hazards) at the tops of pre-cast concrete staircases.
- Specification of small steps (e.g. risers) in external paved areas.
- Specification of heavy building blocks (e.g. those weighing more than 20kgs).
- Large and heavy glass panels.
- Chasing out concrete, brick or blockwork walls or floors for the installation of services.
- Specification of heavy lintels (slim metal or hollow concrete lintels are better alternatives).
- Specification of solvent-based paints and thinners, or isocyanates, particularly for use in confined areas.
- Specification of curtain wall or panel system without provision for tying or raking scaffolds.



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- Specification of 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 site-specific components.
- Heavy construction components that 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, overhead electric power lines or where proximity to obstructions prevents guarding of rigs.

### GREEN LISTS

#### 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 handrails
- Provision of edge protection at permanent works where there is a foreseeable risk of falls after handover
- Practical and safe methods of window cleaning (e.g. from the inside)
- Appointment of a temporary works co-ordinator (BS 5975)
- 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