

Plant Operators Competence

Neil Cowper

Acting Head of Highways Coventry
City Council

About our Plant

Coventry City Council Operations

Our work

What plant do we operate?

- Rollers
- Dumpers
- Breakers
- Gully tankers
- Road marking vehicles

External contractors

- Excavators / Pavers / Specialist Processes

Basics

Construction plant has the potential to cause serious injury or fatality.

Essential to ensure that those operating plant are competent to do so.

- Knowledge through training
- Build experience, through adequate supervision
- Physically able to operate the plant they are using
- Being used for the purpose it was designed for

Basics

Employers duty to ensure plant is

- suitable for the intended use
- safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and inspected to ensure it is correctly installed and does not subsequently deteriorate
- accompanied by suitable health and safety measures, such as protective devices and controls

Hazards

- Strike or injury by moving parts or ejected material
- Parts of body can become trapped / crushed in moving parts
- Sharp edges can cause cuts and injuries
- Parts of the plant, materials or emissions (e.g. steam/water) can be hot or cold enough to cause burns or scalds
- Electricity can cause shock and / or burns

Hazards

- Injuries can be caused by plant becoming unreliable and developing faults through lack of maintenance
- Injuries can be caused by plant being used improperly through lack of experience or training – user error.

Legislation

- **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)**

Employers must 'ensure that all persons who use work equipment have received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken'. Similar duty to ensure adequate training in relation to supervisory and managerial staff.

Legislation

PUWER needs to be considered alongside other health and safety law:

- **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**

required all employers to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all their employees

- **The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999**

contains duties for carrying out of a risk assessment and identifying measures to eliminate or reduce the risks presented by particular hazards in your workplace

- **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015**

Use of plant for construction should be covered within the contractors Construction phase plan

Training

As an employer we must ensure that all people who use, supervise or manage the use of work equipment have received adequate training, which includes the correct use of the equipment, the risks that may arise from its use and the precautions to take

What is adequate training?

This will depend on:

- the job or activity
- the existing competence of workers
- the circumstances of the work (e.g. degree of supervision)
- the work equipment

Training

- Risk Assessments for specific activities are used to identify adequate training and frequency of training.
- Bespoke training schemes e.g. Construction Plant Competence Scheme CPCS. A registration card scheme for those involved in plant operations covering many areas of plant usage to provide skills, knowledge, and competence in operating plant.

Training

What we do:

Currently we do not require our operatives to have CPCS cards. They receive on the job training and competence is monitored by supervisors

Training is arranged in line with risk assessments and as and when required (e.g. dumper training).

We do require our contractors to have CPCS card (or equivalent).

Thanks for listening

Any questions