

GUIDANCE

RESTRICTING ACCESS OF UNAUTHORISED PERSONNEL DURING PLANT EXAMINATION

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SITUATION:

Plant examinations can occur in areas where client employees or members of the public may be present. As plant examinations can involve creating dangers (e.g. opening up escalator and lift pits), it is essential that other people who may be present in the area are protected.

SAFed Member Companies expect clients to provide suitable barriers to prevent access of unauthorised individuals to areas of danger. If the client is unable to do this then SAFed Member Companies reserve the right to charge a client for the additional equipment or personnel that may be required to ensure the safety of all individuals that may be affected by the plant examination.

GUIDANCE:

1. Risk Assessment

- 1.1 As part of carrying out an on-site risk assessment an Engineer Surveyor must determine the most appropriate method to protect other individuals who may be in the area of the examination.
- 1.2 In some situations it will be assessed that a form of barrier is required. Whenever appropriate, the nature of the barrier should be discussed with the responsible representative on site and especially when vulnerable groups are present, e.g. children, old people or the disabled.
- 1.3 On-site risk assessments should consider the deployment of barriers of any type a last resort and, where there is a serious risk to vulnerable groups, other workers or the public, consideration should be made for relocating examinations to less accessible, more secure areas, or rescheduling out-of-hours / at off-peak times.
- 1.4 Whenever possible, barriers provided by clients should be used, as this will reduce the manual handling risks to surveyors from having to carry barriers from their cars or between sites. If clients do not have barriers they should be requested to provide preventative barriers as described below.

2. Types of Barriers

- 2.1 For the purpose of this document, barriers are classed into two types: Preventative or Deterrent. When making a choice of which type of barrier to use an Engineer Surveyor should consider the guidance below and any input from the client's Site Representative.

2.2 The following are not suitable as a barrier:

- a) Any item that is not immediately identifiable as a safety barrier, e.g. chair, table, other items commonly available at that site etc.
- b) Posting a person in front of the hazard unless there is a low risk of an incident occurring, it is for a short duration and it is ensured that the person fully understands their responsibilities.

3. Preventative Barrier

3.1 The aim of this type of barrier is to be a significant physical presence so that effort is required to circumvent it. It should have the following features:

- a) Be at least 950-1100 mm high.
- b) Be a mesh or solid barrier or have a mid-rail and toe-board.
- c) Be of a warning colour (e.g. yellow / black) and contain warning signs so that its purpose as a barrier is obvious.
- d) If possible, it should be locked or secured in position.

3.2 A lift door jamb and a deterrent barrier (see below) are considered to constitute a preventative barrier while working inside a lift shaft or lift pit.

3.3 A preventative barrier must be used when:

- a) There is a risk of significant injury (e.g. fall into a pit or opened hatch) **or**
- b) Vulnerable groups may be present that require a high level of protection, e.g. children, old people or the disabled.

4. Deterrent Barrier

4.1 The aim of this type of barrier is to provide a visual warning of danger and some limited physical hindrance. It provides a lesser degree of restriction than a preventative barrier. Warning signs must be used to make its purpose obvious.

4.2 Examples of a deterrent barrier include fixing warning tape across a hazard or using a warning cone.

4.3 A deterrent barrier is only appropriate for the following situations:

- a) The risk is only of a minor injury (e.g. minor trip) **AND**
- b) No vulnerable groups are present that require a high level of protection, e.g. children, old people or the disabled.