

CASE STUDY: Land Securities

Land Securities have acknowledged that a significant part of the challenge facing the construction industry is changing hearts and minds to make everyone on site as aware of processes harmful to health as they are of threats to their safety.

To combat this obstacle, Land Securities now feed health information into inductions, to help change the mentality of those working within the construction industry.

Clive Johnson, Head of Health and Safety explained:

'When you explain why it is so important to think about health risks, that is very persuasive: we talk about the impact on family life if you can't breathe easily, or if you've got dermatitis. We tell workers we want to make them aware [of what can happen to them]; we don't bang on about legislation'.

Overcoming the challenge of making health a priority on sites has been approached as Land Securities now requires all contractors to have policies on worker health and wellbeing. On every project lasting six weeks or longer, the principle contractor must sign up to an occupational health scheme such as [Constructing Better Health](#) (CBH). Working with CBH has provided the opportunity for occupational health providers to come on site to give talks on health issues, and poster campaigns are run alongside to raise awareness.

Land Securities' principle contractors meet regularly to discuss how they could work towards a consistent approach to health management. They have produced a health and safety charter, the main objectives were:

- To ensure that at the start of every project, the contractor identifies the biggest health risk and has a programme to manage it
- To reduce activities that lead to exposure to dust and fumes

Simple changes have been adopted by contractors to reduce exposure to potentially harmful dust and fumes:

1. Workers are strongly discouraged from using brooms to clean up because of the risk of raising harmful inhalable fine dust particles, instead workers must 'wet clean'
2. Industrial vacuum cleaners are used to remove dust
3. Employees with water bowsers on their backs spray the floors to damp the dust before sweeping
4. Sites are encouraged to use battery powered vehicles wherever possible to avoid the fumes generated by other types of vehicles in restricted areas

Land Securities also stress the importance of assessing all potential health risks at the beginning of every project, as well as monitoring throughout.

To view Land Securities Contractor CIG- Occupational Health Charter 2015-16, click [here](#).