



MERSEYSIDE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

## **HS3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE FOR CONTRACTORS WORKING ON A CLOSED LANDFILL SITE**

(Where applicable, this document shall be read in conjunction  
with the relevant Pre-Construction Information)

Authorised by: Chief executive

Issued by: ASB

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## Document Revision History

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## **1 SITE INDUCTION**

Upon arrival to site, Contractors shall undertake a Site Induction conducted by MWDA.

MWDA will issue a Works Authorisation certificate in advance of the Contractor commencing any works.

Where a Contractor has been left to continue working without MWDA presence, the Contractor shall telephone MWDA at the end of the working day; and similarly when starting the following day.

## **2 SECURITY**

Upon immediate entry onto site, the Contractor shall close the security gates. At no times shall these gates remain open without immediate supervision.

If the Contractor is expecting a delivery of materials or equipment, provision shall be made for the deliverer to contact the Contractor when they reach the gates.

## **3 SMOKING/NAKED FLAMES**

Due to the potential presence of Landfill Gas, smoking or naked flames are not permitted on site. Hot Works are only permitted via a Permit to Work.

## **4 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Although the site is no longer an active landfill site, the appropriate P.P.E. for the nature of the works, and subsequent Risk Assessment, shall be worn at all times.

A minimum P.P.E. of steel toecap/midsole and gloves is recommended.

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING BOREHOLES**

Closed landfill sites generally contain environmental monitoring boreholes in one form or another. These generally take the appearance of Nom 150 Dia capped galvanized steel pipes, protruding generally approximately 1.0m from the ground.

If the Contractor encounters what they believe to be a borehole that is uncapped, i.e. the blank flange on the top is missing or open; they should inform MWDA at their earliest convenience.

Where it is necessary for a Contractor to work alongside a monitoring borehole, they should work at arm's length, and up-wind, of the installation wherever possible.

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At no time shall a Contractor stand above or lean over an open Monitoring Borehole.

All boreholes across all closed landfill sites have a DSEAR classification. See the Pre Construction Information for further details.

## **6 PESTS AND VERMIN**

Insects, pests and vermin are to be expected on site. The use of insect repellent is advised, and any observation of pests and vermin shall be reported to MWDA.

See below for information on Leptospirosis

## **7 PUBLIC ENCOUNTERS**

Although not all sites are open to the public; public encounters should be anticipated at all sites.

The Contractor shall be aware that on some sites, although not authorised by MWDA, game hunting takes place; and the Contractor shall be aware of hunting dogs and shot gun fire.

Any indications of 'Traveller' presence or encampments on site shall be reported to MWDA immediately.

## **8 HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS**

The Contractors' attention is drawn to the potential of Tetanus and Hepatitis B infections, along with the potential for Weil's disease (Leptospirosis).

It is recommended that all personnel working on a closed landfill site should have undergone a course of Tetanus and Hepatitis B vaccinations

### **HEPATITIS B**

Hepatitis B is a viral infection transmitted via infected blood products. Injuries from used needles, razor blades etc. can transmit the virus.

An individual's response to Hepatitis B can vary and is determined by a blood test carried out at the end of the course of injections. Depending on the antibody count established by this blood test, a booster may be required every three or five years.

If the blood test shows that no antibodies are present, the operative may be offered additional treatment, such as a booster injection, or the course of injections may be repeated. If individuals continue to show that no antibodies are present, they have to be very vigilant if injuries are sustained.

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In the case of an injury (e.g. from a needle) the foreign body should be removed as quickly as possible and the site of the cut or puncture wound encouraged to bleed. The operative should immediately report to the nearest accident and emergency department taking the offending foreign body with them (this will be tested to determine whether it carries any infective agents).

If the operative is known to carry no Hepatitis B antibodies, it is important that the hospital staff are informed of this, as particular additional treatment is required to be given within 72 hours of the injury being sustained.

It is the responsibility of the individual operative to ensure that their vaccination cover is kept up to date.

### WEIL'S DISEASE (LEPTOSPIROSIS)

Weil's Disease is one of two types of Leptospirosis and is a serious, sometimes fatal, infection transmitted by contact with urine from infected rats and contaminated water. The bacteria can enter the body through cuts and scratches and through the lining of the mouth, throat and eyes.

HSE also produces a workers' pocket card advising on Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

To protect against Weil's Disease, exposed skin should be covered (e.g. waterproof gloves and long sleeves are to be worn). In windy conditions face protection should also be considered.

If any splashing occurs during the course of the operatives' works, the affected area should be cleansed immediately. Hands, wrists and forearms should be washed at the end of the working day, and prior to the consumption of any food or drink.

Closed landfill site do not generally support welfare facilities, therefore antiseptic wipes should be used.

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## 9 PERMIT TO WORK

The Authority operates a Permit to Work system across all the closed landfill sites.

An MWDA Permit to Work is required for any of the following activities:

- Hot Works
- Working at Heights
- Confined Space Entry
- Electrical Works
- Pressure Mains Works

## 10 DSEAR/ATEX

**DSEAR** The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002)

**ATEX** EU Directive 94/9/EC (also known as 'ATEX 95' or 'the ATEX Equipment Directive') concerning equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Due to the risk of fire and explosion as a result of landfill gases, the sites have been classified into the various DSEAR zones in accordance with the regulations. The use of tools, equipment and machinery shall be restricted to those compliant with ATEX categories.

| DSEAR |   | ATEX     |   |
|-------|---|----------|---|
| Zone  | Description   | Category | Requirements  |
| 0     | Explosive atmosphere is present continuously, for long periods, or frequently.                | 1        | Equipment must be safe under normal operation, expected and rare malfunction. |
| 1     | Explosive atmosphere is likely to occur under normal operation, occasionally.                 | 2        | Equipment must be safe under normal operation, expected malfunction.          |
| 2     | Explosive atmosphere may occur under abnormal operation and only persists for a short period. | 3        | Equipment must be safe under normal operation.                                |

See the Pre Construction Information for details specific to the works being undertaken.

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## 11      **CONFINED SPACES**

**Confined Space**      **Any place, including any chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well or other similar space in which, by virtue of its enclosed nature, there arises a reasonably foreseeable specified risk**

**[The Confined Spaces Regulations 1997]**

Confined spaces are to be encountered on all closed landfill sites. Entry into a confined space is forbidden without a Permit to Work.

Confined spaces on the closed landfill sites have been categorised by way of the National Categories and City & Guilds 6150 Scheme:

- NC1      Low risk entry with adequate natural or mechanical ventilation. Typically meter pits and valve chambers**
- NC2      Vertical direct unobstructed access with continuous attachment to**
- NC3      When not possible to have continuous attachment to a safety line. Typically where the work team must move away from the point of entry.**
- NC4      Nonstandard entry involving complex operations. A safe system of work must be developed.**

See the Pre Construction Information for schedule of confined spaces specific to the works being undertaken.

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