



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

# **HSMS 10 – HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE TO VISITORS WORKING ON A CLOSED LANDFILL SITE**

## CONTENTS

1.	Document Revision History .....	2
2.	Summary.....	3
3.	Introduction .....	3
4.	Definition .....	3
5.	Site Induction .....	3
6.	Security .....	3
7.	Smoking/Naked Flames .....	3
8.	Environmental Monitoring Boreholes.....	3
9.	Pests and Vermin .....	4
10.	Public Encounters .....	4
11.	Health and Safety Vaccinations.....	4
12.	Permit to Work.....	4
13.	DSEAR/ATEX.....	5
14.	Confined Spaces .....	5

## 1. DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Issue: 1

Date of Issue: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Issue	Author	Date	Amendments
1	ASB	20/02/18	First issue

## 2. SUMMARY

Table 1 below summarises the responsibility for this manual. The Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) is written to meet the requirements of HSG65: Managing for Health and Safety as published by the Health and Safety Executive.

Manual Summary Table	
Responsible Section(s)	Estates
Lead Officer(s):	ASB

**Table 1 Summary Table**

## 3. INTRODUCTION

This documentation provides health and safety advice for any person or organisation working on any of MRWA's closed sites in an official capacity as agreed with MRWA, but in such circumstances where the nature of the work is not covered by The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

## 4. DEFINITION

Visitor                Any individual or organisation working on the site in an official capacity in agreement with or on behalf of MRWA

## 5. SITE INDUCTION

Upon arrival to site, Visitors shall undertake a Site Induction conducted by MRWA.

MRWA will issue a Works Authorisation in advance of the Visitor commencing any activity. This is evidence that the site induction has taken place, and shall be retained by the Visitor for the duration of their presence on site. The Works Authorisation shall be returned to MRWA following the completion of the Visitors work.

Where a Visitor is to continue without MRWA presence, the Visitor shall telephone MRWA at the end of the working day; and similarly when starting the following day.

## 6. SECURITY

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

## 7. SMOKING/NAKED FLAMES

Due to the potential presence of Landfill Gas, smoking or naked flames are not permitted on site.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING BOREHOLES

Closed landfill sites 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 Visitor 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 MRWA at their earliest convenience.

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

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

All boreholes across all closed landfill sites have a DSEAR classification.

## 9. 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 MRWA.

See below for information on Leptospirosis

## 10. PUBLIC ENCOUNTERS

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

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

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

## 11. HEALTH AND SAFETY VACCINATIONS

The Visitors' 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.

### 11.1. 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 Visitors' 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.

## 12. PERMIT TO WORK

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

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

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

Visitors are not permitted to undertake any activity that would require the issue of a Permit to Work.

### 13. 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.

### 14. 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 a safety line
- 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.