



**The Building
Safety Group**

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

How construction firms can avoid common Health and Safety pitfalls

Introductions

- Andy Harper CMIOSH IMAPS

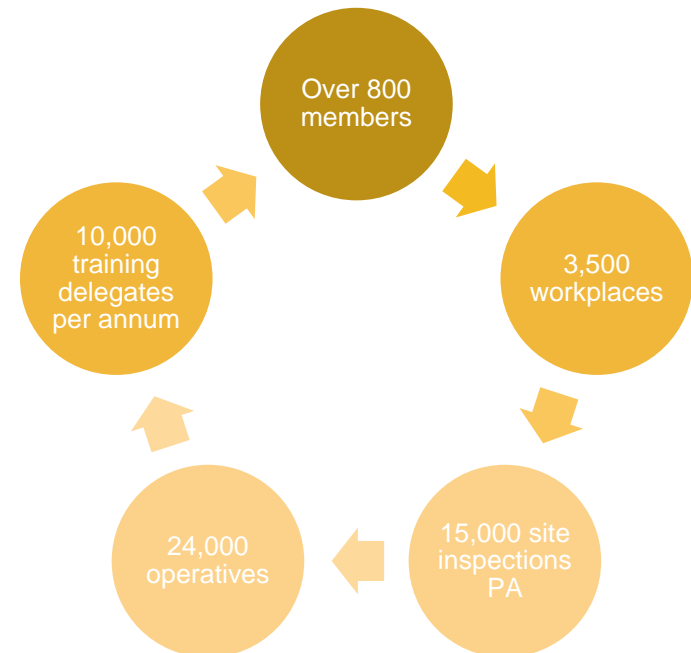
Who are BSG?



BSG's Mission

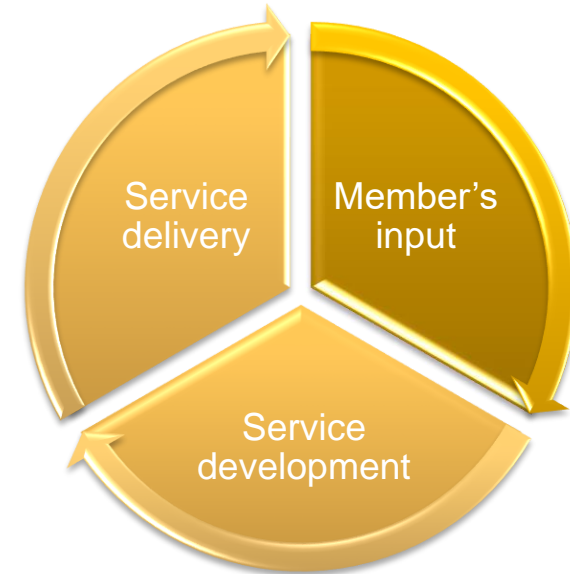
To support our members in driving continuous improvement in health, safety and environmental performance by providing a consistent high quality professional service to ensure the well being of all

- One of the UK's largest construction safety groups
- Over fifty years' experience of providing specialist consultancy services for our members
- Conduct over 15,000 site inspections per year to over 800 members
- Country wide coverage
- Experts in construction health, safety and environmental welfare
- Unique insight into the construction sector



Not for profit organisation

- Operated on a commercial basis
 - But with no profit motive
- Focus is entirely on quality to ensure that we deliver the highest standards in health, safety and environmental consultancy & training
- Owned by members, run by members, for the benefit of members
- Ethical
- Practical
- Consistent
- Transparent



THE BUILDING SAFETY GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following members have been appointed to serve as Directors for the Building Safety Group (BSG).

Neil Sherreard
Stephen Bell
Clive Bassett
Andy Musselwhite
Chris Nicks
Guy Leach
Steve Weir
Rupert Perkins
William Sargeant
John Montague
Paul Knox

The Building Safety Group (BSG)
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Greendale Construction
E G Carter
Knox & Wells Ltd
Rowlinson Constructions Limited
John Perkins Construction Ltd
City & Country Group PLC
Independent Consultant
Pearce Const. (Barnstaple) Ltd

Chairman
Managing Director
Company Secretary
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director

Typical Member Companies



**The Building
Safety Group**

House builders

Principal contractors, contractors & sub-contractors

Civil engineers & ground workers

Designers & architects

M&E Contractors

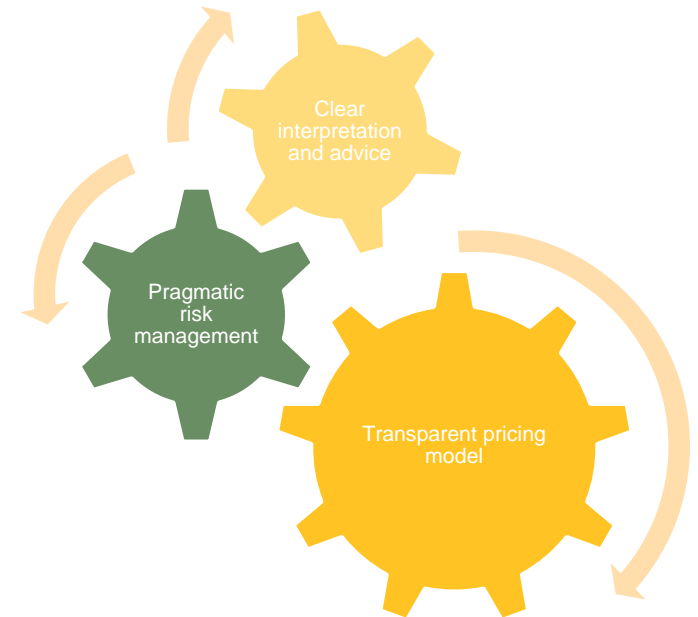
Plasters & dry liners

Electricians

Housing Associations

Painting Contractors

Scaffolders



In our 2020 Member Satisfaction Survey;

97% of respondents rated service as good or very good

97% of respondents described the advice given by BSG Safety Advisers as 'Very helpful' or 'Helpful'

TOP 5 ISSUES WE AT BSG SEE ON SITES

Working at Height

Edge Protection

Dust

Housekeeping/material storage

Lack of adequate Risk Assessments



On 15 January 2022 at Cambridge Magistrates' Court, a builder was fined £16,000 after pleading guilty to breaching regulation 8 (a) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, following an incident that saw one of its workers, fall from height and subsequently die.

CULPABILITY

The HSE investigation concluded that the builder hadn't got its selection of access equipment right, or if they did, they hadn't used it properly.

Due to the company's small size, the potential fine was set at a starting point of £30,000.

The small family-owned nature of the company and the seriousness with which its management reacted to the incident, saw that fine being reduced significantly.



On 7 July 2022, Redditch Magistrates Court sentenced a roofing boss, to four months in prison after pleading guilty to breaches included under the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (as amended).

The case came about after a labourer working on an fragile roof fell onto a concrete floor, sustaining life-changing injuries

The sentencing guidelines changed in February 2016 – prior to that you had to breach a prohibition notice to be sent to prison.

What's happened now is that almost all health and safety offences potentially have a custodial sentence attached to them, where individuals are prosecuted

Scaffolding and Edge Protection



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A roofer and scaffolder have been prosecuted over a fatal fall from the roof of a two-storey terraced house.

They did not put simple preventative measures in place to avoid the incident.

Roofers were working on the property's roof in Southwest London when the incident happened.

Whilst carrying the slates up, one of the roofers fell around 6m through a gap, which was adjacent to the hoist and landed on the ground. He died almost immediately.

The HSE's investigation found that when the scaffolder erected the scaffold, he'd left a 1.17 m gap in the edge protection at the ladder access point and did not fit a scaffold gate.

The scaffolder was not fully qualified to erect the scaffold and the investigation also found that the equipment did not comply with industry standards nor legal requirements.

The Roofing Contractor, pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act at Southwark Crown Court.

He was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £6,318 in costs.

The Scaffold Contractor, also pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(2) of the HSW Act.

He was fined the same amount and handed the same costs.

The HSE inspector investigating said: 'Preventative measures were inexpensive and required little time or effort. Reducing the size of the opening in the guard rails and installing a self-closing scaffold gate would have stopped this man from falling to his death.'

A scaffold gate costs around £40 and only takes a few minutes to install.

'Those involved in scaffolding and roof work on smaller sites need to be aware of the potentially devastating consequences of failing to put basic safeguards in place.'



Silicosis



The inhalation of dust created by cutting stone or concrete products can lead to silicosis



Lungs Affected by Silicosis





HOUSEKEEPING

Provide a safe way of approaching and leaving the place of work





Ensure Safe Storage





Why are risk assessments important?

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) require employers to assess the risks of activities, introduce measures to control those risks and tell their employees about these measures.
- Risk assessments provide the fundamental intelligence on the hazards, risks and precautions for carrying out an activity



Workplace Dangers

It's important for employers to be able to spot potential dangers in and around the workplace. Please study these pictures and see if you can spot the dangers yourself...











The Building Safety Act 2022 received Royal Assent on the 28th April 2022 and provides a new framework for the design, construction and occupation of “higher risk” buildings.

These are defined as those having at least 18 metres or 7 storeys in height and comprise of at least 2 domestic premises.

It introduces a new duty holder: the “Accountable Person”.

As yet we have not received any firm guidance or approved code of practice so advice for now is to follow the L153 CDM 2015 guidance as the other duty holders are very similar if working on higher risk building.

