



18<sup>th</sup> November 2007

## Farm Safety

### Checks and Considerations

This short note is to help you the employer to check the key safety points concerning your workplace. It covers the typical hazards normally found in the rural community and on farms. It doesn't cover all of the risks, but is a guide as to where to look and when to stop and consider when changes may be needed. This checklist should take you approximately five to ten minutes to get you started.

An important part of managing your farm is to ensure your employees health & safety is considered and the safety of other people such as visitors, customers or trades people when visiting your premises.

Our aim is to help you ensure you fulfil your obligations for a safe workplace. You need firstly to become aware of what can cause harm and then take action. The following questions are designed to help you evaluate how well you are currently managing safety! Also to help you identify the safety risks on your farm, allowing you to think about them, so that you may be able to make your farm safer.

#### Tractors and equipment

Are the tractors you use fitted with an approved Roll Protection system?

Are guards fitted to equipment where there is a risk to limbs, hair or clothing, which could become caught in the machine? i.e. belts and pulleys etc

Are children and adults prevented from riding on tractors/ towed implements that do not have foot / handholds or seating?

Are operators of vehicles familiar with the manufactures instructions?  
Are the loads carried, in accordance with the manufacturers recommended limits?

Is hearing protection worn when using noisy equipment?

Do you ensure regular inspection and maintenance is carried out?

Are tyres checked regularly and precautions taken when inflating them to protect against blowouts?

When moving equipment do you watch out for power lines, and keep at a safe distance?

Are tractor brakes, including the handbrake, functioning correctly?

Can the tractor *only* be started from the operators seat?



## Silos and Field Bins

Are seed drills and or conveyors guarded to prevent limbs, hair or clothes from getting caught?

Are Silos and field bins regularly inspected for structural damage and wear to prevent slipping?

Do you secure hatches to prevent unauthorised access to silos or field bins?

Is fall protection provided and worn when climbing vertical ladders or when working on top of silos or field bins?

When moving equipment do you watch for power lines and/or overhead dangers?

Are confined space procedures followed when entering a silo?

Are respirators used when loading dusty grain, and are they in good order? If you are unsure check, what the manufacturer recommends.

Are silo ladders secure or far enough above ground so as to be out of the reach of children?

## Chemicals

Is there a register of all hazardous substances used or stored on the farm?

Are the safety data sheets available on the farm for those using any substances?

Do all the chemical containers have the correct and readable labels?

Are all the users of farm chemicals trained (and certificated if necessary) in the use of chemicals and substances?

Are respirators, gloves, safety glasses and clothing readily available and provided for staff when using equipment and substances?

Is safety equipment regularly inspected? Have you checked recently?

Are all chemicals stored in a suitable place, and in appropriate containers?  
Are these chemicals secure from children, or visitors who may be unfamiliar with the risks?

Are flammable materials, liquids stored away from ignition sources?  
And are fire extinguishers working and in place?

What actions or procedures have you got to deal with spillages of hazardous materials?

## Farm Safety



### General

Are all electrical cables and equipment regularly checked and maintained?

Have you checked or made safe any switches or wiring, sockets or appliances to prevent electric shocks?

Is there something you have been *meaning* to **FIX!**

Do you use portable equipment, i.e. power tools, if so, do you use a (RCD) Residual Current Device.

Prior to lifting anything, do you stop to consider the load, do you make sure you use good manual handling techniques?

Is hearing protection worn in all areas where noise levels are high? (If you have to raise your voice to be heard by others, this is a possible area for concern)

Are firearms and ammunition stored in a safe and secure place? Out of the reach of children! Do you know the regulations for firearms?

Do you adopt good procedures when handling animals?

Is there a procedure on the farm for staff who maybe working alone, so they can contact you?

Have you also considered the hazards associated with waterways, rivers and rhynes?

How do you dispose of your farm waste? Be aware the regulations are changing; it is no longer acceptable just to burn it or bury it!

*Having read our checklist I hope it has helped, and that you maybe have considered some areas, which previously you wouldn't have. If you do still have some concerns please call us, we can help most employers check and implement solutions for greater safety, and to help you meet your obligations.*

Yours Sincerely

*Neil Sweet*

Stay **SAFE**

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