

### SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORK



### Customer / Client

UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Works Group Royal Engineers (WGRE).

### Project

Improve the implementation and operation of the UK Ministry of Defence Safe Systems of Work as mandated by the Joint Services Publication 375 – Health and Safety Handbook: Volume 3.

### Challenge

The UK Ministry of Defence Safe Systems of Work for high risk tasks are mandated in Joint Services Publication 375 – Health and Safety Handbook: Volume 3. These Safe Systems of Work are to be applied across the whole of the Defence Estate which varies from Royal Air Force Airfields, Army Barracks and Training facilities to Royal Navy Docklands.

The application and operation of the Safe Systems of Work are audited by qualified Engineers from different disciplines where they are used across the complex UK Ministry of Defence Estate.

The existing Audits and Reports did not clearly identify specific issues and the nature of the safety failings found. The results of the audits were not readily apparent and took time to assimilate.

### Solution

Identify the key safety and legal aspects of the Joint Services Publication 375 – Health and Safety Handbook: Volume 3, and the 8 chapters included within the publication which when measured would give a clear, concise and readily identifiable state of compliance with the UK Ministry of Defence mandated requirements to comply with legal statute.

The key issues were honed down to include the assessment of; AP's and their training, the contents of the Document Register, safety documentation, safety keys and safety equipment, the site installations and their control, and whether the system is safe to continue. The assessments were common for Electricity, Mechanical Systems, Petroleum, Confined Spaces and Work on Restricted High Places.

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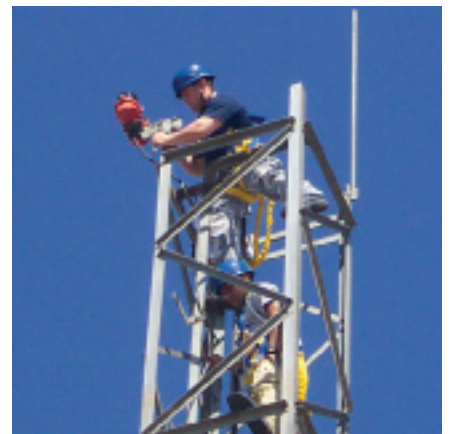
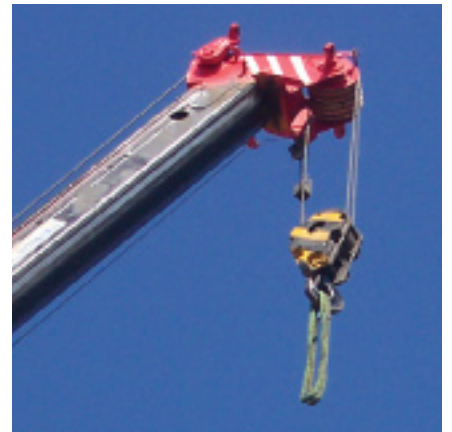
For rapid, concise and clear recognition of the statutes of the application and assessment operations, a key development was the use of a "traffic lights" colour coding system that identified an "unsafe" condition as red and a "safe" condition as green. "Unsatisfactory" conditions that need attention are coloured amber.

The five assessment measures culminate with the question "are the systems safe to continue". Directors and Management can recognise at a glance if the Safe Systems of Work which apply to their establishments and facilities are Safe or need attention.

## Client Benefit

When each of the safe Systems of Work conditions are recorded on a dash board of results for each Establishment or facility within the Directors or Managers responsibility he can rapidly focus his attention on the aspects of safety he needs to address.

A glance at the dash board of results can determine where he is at threat of failure of the application of the UK Ministry of Defence mandated Safe Systems of Work and possible prosecution for a Health & Safety breach.



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