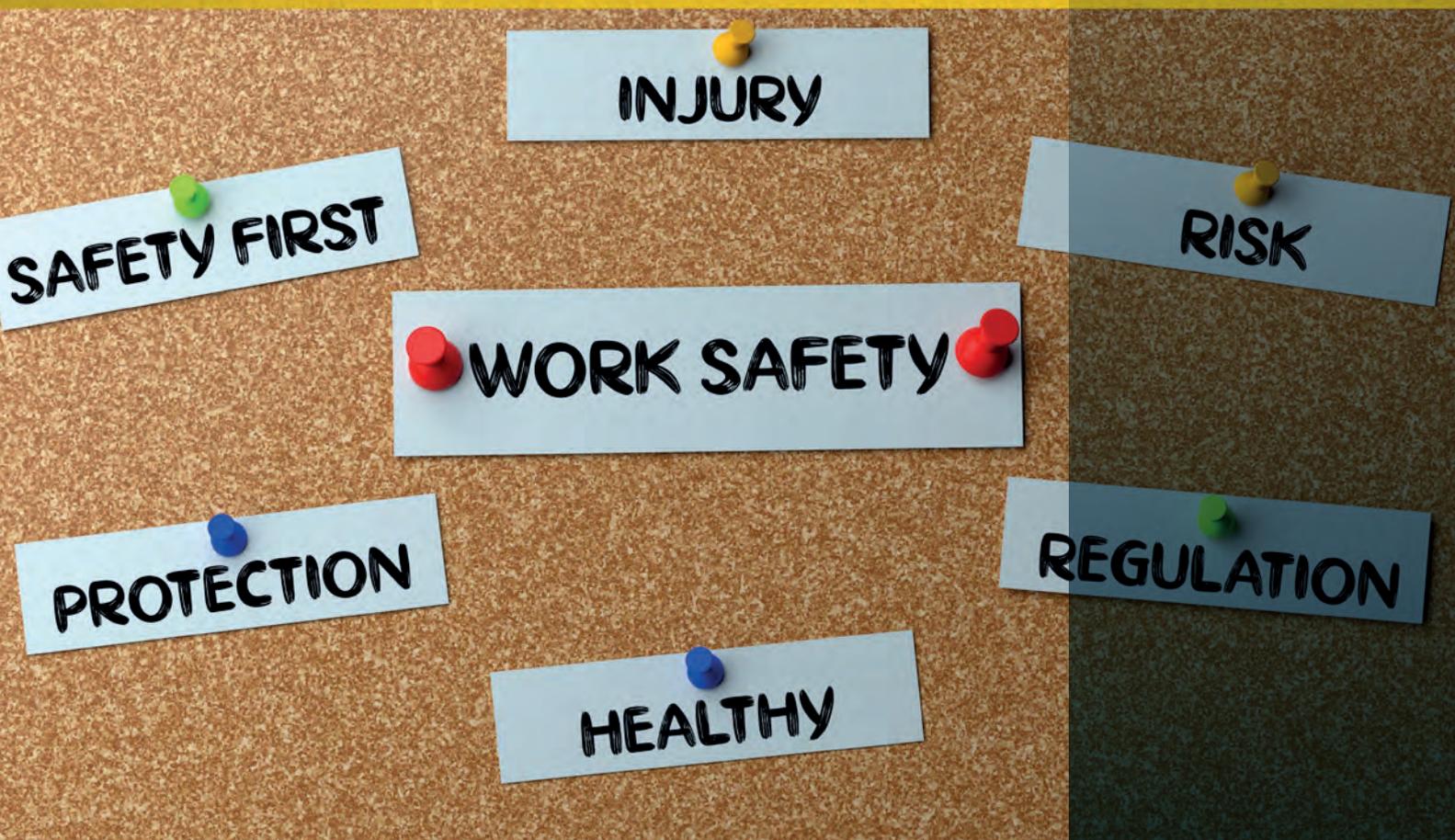


REINFORCED

health and safety

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY



REINFORCED
INSIGHT

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The British Association of Reinforcement (BAR) is the trade association of UK manufacturers and fabricators of steel reinforcement products including cut and bent bar and mesh.

BAR aims to add value to the reinforcement industry through market and product development, promotion of good industry and health and safety practices and forwarding the development of the reinforced concrete industry as a whole.

www.uk-bar.org



Reinforced Insight: Reinforced Health & Safety

Introduction

The health and safety of employees in the steel reinforcement sector is a key priority for the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR) and its members.

Together, the members collaborate and share best practice and experience in order to raise the bar for health and safety across the reinforcement sector. This is achieved by BAR providing a forum where members can exchange information on potential health and safety problems and how best to address and negate those risks. It is also achieved via BAR's publication and dissemination of health and safety best practice guides.

Individually, BAR members develop and implement health and safety programmes and initiatives aimed at achieving zero health and safety incidents. This includes full engagement and communication with employees and the ongoing development and improvement of health and safety protocols and initiatives. The over-riding objective is the establishment of a health and safety culture that is embraced by all from management to those on the mill and fabricator factory floor.

WHY IS HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPORTANT?

Providing a workplace that forwards best health and safety practice is important to ensure the well-being of employees. This should be a key objective for any company.

It also makes good business sense for several reasons:

- It's the law
 - Health and safety is not optional. It's the law. The Health and Safety at Work Act, introduced in 1974, calls upon both employers and employees to take reasonable steps to ensure health and safety in the workplace. In addition to this over-riding legislation there are further sector specific and work practice and plant regulations. Failure to adhere to these could result in severe fines and possible criminal prosecution.
- Increases efficiency
 - Health and safety protocols increase efficiency and productivity by providing a defined and structured approach to getting the job done. Furthermore, a safe working environment minimises any time lost to accidents.

- Creates a better working environment
 - The provision of a strong health and safety culture that fully involves employees creates a positive working environment. It makes employees feel valued and this encourages greater productivity, reduces staff turn-over and underlines the commitment of a company to being forward thinking.
- Helps to win contracts
 - The provision of health and safety training and the removal of workplace risk can have a direct effect on being awarded contracts as it is often a prerequisite for clients. It is an essential element of a company's corporate responsibility and positive business profile.

The above benefits prove that far from being business hindrance, health and safety is a business asset.

Raising the health and safety bar

All BAR members have ongoing programmes of health and safety protocols and initiatives. Below are examples of just how BAR members are raising the bar for health and safety.

ARCELORMITTAL KENT WIRE

■ SteelSafe

- This is an innovative system that enables employees to quickly and easily report health and safety incidents by simply scanning a QR code in a non-operational area. By being so user-friendly, there has been a significant increase in reports demonstrating increased employee involvement and buy-in. Management is automatically notified of any reports submitted with a live update which enables fast response to incidents and identification of trends needing to be addressed. SteelSafe sets a new standard for health and safety reported within the reinforcement sector.

■ Health and Safety Day

- An annual Health and Safety Day is held in conjunction with all other AcelorMittal sites across the globe. Employees engage in activities and training relating to safety such as hazard identification, fire and electrical safety, mental health, manual handling and first aid. Requiring significant investment of time and resources, the Health and Safety Day serves as an example of the company's dedication to keeping its employees safe and healthy.





■ Take Care Behavioural Safety Programme

- The ArcelorMittal Take Care programme aims to change the mindset of the workforce and promote a sense of personal accountability for safety. It emphasises that safety begins with each individual and calls for the embracing of Golden Rules. These include: recognising risks; taking action to mitigate them; speaking up when potential risks or safety violations arise; taking ownership of safety concerns for the benefit of oneself and others.

■ Shop Floor Walks

- The has instigated a programme of 'Step-by-Step towards a safer workplace' shop floor audits evaluations. These are essential in maintaining a safe working environment particularly in a factory environment. They encourage face-to-face dialogue and feedback between employees and management, facilitate evaluation of work practices, reinforced safety standards and identify opportunities for improvement.

CELSA UK

■ Audit Programme

- A programme of internal audits across all levels of operation ensures proper implementation regulations and protocols. External audits ensure that the company's safety management systems meet all current relevant regulations and standards.

■ Hazard Notification Card

- All employees are encouraged to use a Hazard Identification Card to report potential health and safety risk. The cards are reviewed and evaluated to ensure that potential risks are eliminated.

■ Program 10

- Program 10 represents a set of 10 'Rules that Saves Lives' that include basic protocols to be followed such as when working with extreme heights, lifting operations, entry to confined spaces or high-energy/

■ PSAP Program

- The Personal Safety Action Plan calls upon all Celsa managers to define and maintain a specific safety action plan for those under their responsibility.



■ OOL Program

- The Organisation, Order and Cleaning program provides protocols that ensure organised, clean and safe working areas.

■ IAI Program

- The Investigation of Accidents and Incidents Program is for full investigation of any health and safety incidents with the objective implement actions plans so that they do happen again. The investigations are used as education and learning tools to further promote knowledge about safety at work.

ROM LTD/BRC LTD/EXPRESS REINFORCEMENTS LTD

■ New Employee Safety

New employees represent particular health and safety issues. They tend to be less situationally aware, do not have the experience of established employees and so are more susceptible to being involved in a safety incident. ROM has recognised this issue and has improved the safety arrangements for new employees considered to be any one with less than twelve months service.

New employee procedures include:

- An improved induction process, with more video media to standardise the induction and help get the message over,
- On-boarding of new employees helping them feel part of a team.
- Undertake a Foundation Risk Assessment prior to working in the factory,
- A new safety observation programme is being implemented specifically for new employees where two-way communication is encouraged, especially hazard reporting using pocket books.
- Training is being improved with a dedicated team of qualified instructors and separate qualified assessors to check that the training has been effective.



All new employees wear light blue helmets so when safety observations are undertaken managers and supervision from other areas can easily identify new employees and are tasked to engage with them.

■ Fork lift safety

BAR fabricator members are fully aware of the need for forklift truck safety with particular focus on pedestrian safety. As part of the 2023 World Steel Association Steel Safety Day, they ran a forklift truck safety improvement programme adding an element of competition. Truck drivers were split into teams with each one going through three different improvement aspects:

- A theory and knowledge-based classroom training session,
- A practical hazard spotting session in the factory,
- A practical skill session with obstacle courses whilst carrying a bottle of water on a pallet.

Points were awarded for all three sessions as well as points could be lost on the practical driving skills session. This improvement programme was very well received by all who took part, as well as helping to get the safety message over.



In addition, each site undertook guided safety observations, walking the forklift truck routes, checking the conditions of the trucks, engaging with drivers and other employees on aspect forklift truck safety, with special focus on Life Saving Rule 3, keeping a safe distance from moving vehicles.

The British Association of Reinforcement: Forwarding health and safety best practice

As the focal point for the UK reinforcement sector, BAR is able to forward health and safety best practice. It disseminates the experience and expertise of its members via industry best practice guides. These include:

■ Best practice guidance: The safe off-loading of reinforcement fabric

Provide guidance for those involved in the off-loading of bundles of reinforcement fabric from delivery vehicles at stockists and construction sites. The procedures outlined cover off-loading using a range of equipment known to be in regular use and covers preparation of the load for off-loading by the delivery driver and range of safe working procedures when off-loading bundles of reinforcement fabric from the delivery vehicle.

■ Industry advice: Controlling shear line noise

Shear line machines with no noise control can produce noise levels of around 95dB(A) at the shearline operators' position. This means that anyone operating a shear-line with no noise control is likely to be above The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 action limit value after 45 minutes of operation. This advice note aims to answer three key questions:

- What are the requirements under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005?
- What are the means of control for noise from shear-lines to limit risk to as low as reasonably possible?
- How can suppliers be encouraged to provide shear lines with built-in noise control?

The guide was produced in association with the Health and Safety Executive.

■ Best practice guidance: The safe off-loading of cut-and-bent reinforcement

This best practice guidance aims to forward awareness safe working practices for all those involved with the off-loading of cut-and-bent reinforcement bundles from delivery vehicles. The procedures outlined cover off-loading using a range of equipment known to be in regular use and includes preparation for safe off-loading, the delivery plan and preparation of the load for off-loading.

■ Best practice guidance: Welding ventilation

This guidance underlines the requirements to provide a safe working environment for those involved in the welding of steel reinforcement. It aims to avoid the potential health hazards resulting from exposure to welding fumes and explains how mechanical ventilation can limit over exposure to the fumes and gases resulting from cutting and welding by removing those fumes and gases from the welder's breathing zone. It includes an outline of main welding processes for steel reinforcement together with a description of potential fume hazards and examination of natural and mechanical ventilation. The guidance offered relates generally to the welding of carbon steel reinforcement and whilst the same principles apply to the welding of stainless steel and galvanised reinforcement further advice should be sought when welding these materials.



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