

The Theme for October 2021 is Modern Slavery in Construction.

Your Health and Safety

Our Environment

Quality Requirements

Modern Slavery is defined as the illegal exploitation of people of any nationality, gender or age, for personal or commercial gains. In the UK, the construction has been identified as a high-risk industry for Modern Slavery, specifically Labour Exploitation (where victims are forced to work for little or no pay and often suffer from poor working conditions, excessive working hours, wage deductions etc.). Due to this, it is important that our workforce is aware of what Modern Slavery is; who / where victims are likely to be encountered; how to identify potential victims; and importantly how to report in confidence any issues potentially regarding Modern Slavery.

Overview:

Victims are promised a job in the UK then forced to work, but see little of the money themselves.

Victims are likely to be those in a vulnerable position seeking better prospects.

Through threat or violence, victims are forced to live in squalid accommodation and have their ID documents removed.

Reporting: If you are or suspect somebody is a victim of modern slavery:

DO NOT confront potential traffickers or victims - phone the MWHT Whistleblowing Helpline: 0844 892 4413.

Be vigilant and look out for typical signs of victims.

Victim of Slavery - The Warning Signs:

- Look unkempt
- Poor hygiene
- Often wear same clothes
- Signs of abuse
- Avoid eye contact
- Appear frightened or hesitant to talk
- Seem reluctant to seek help
- Rarely interact with others
- Listed as living in the same address as many others
- Employed through agencies which may have suspiciously low rates
- Have no access to passport / ID documentation
- Had to pay fees to obtain work
- Rarely travel alone
- Dropped off / collected for work on regular basis
- Very early / late pick-ups
- Work excessive hours

This document should be read and displayed alongside Toolbox Talk: CDTT30-02 Modern Slavery in Construction.