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| **Topic** | Safer handling of inbound and outbound materials |
| **Entry number (MPA Ref)** | 202456 |
| **Title of Entry** | Safe access to fill Colour Pods |
| **Name of Company** | Brett Group |
| **Location** | Pocklington |
| **Video**  **(if yes, please include URL for video)** | No |
| **Other resource X (if yes, please include description)** | 5 images, 2 word docs, 1 excel file |
| **Fatal Theme (tick boxes that are applicable) 1  2  3 X 4**  **5  6** | |
| **BACKGROUND** | |
| Pocklington produces wet-cast concrete slabs and accessories on 2 production lines. To achieve the required product colour, ground pigment is loaded from bulk bags into the colour dosing pods. Though the bulk bags are lifted by a mechanical hoist, the feed collars must be untied before the bag can be emptied into the pods. On average 2 pods must be replenished from bulk bags each week and the area requires daily inspecting.  The original access was via a vertical ladder (with ladder guard fitted) onto a platform. However, the platform level at 3.6m high was too low to access the feed collars without climbing onto the support frame. This meant personnel could potentially fall over the handrails to floor level.  Whilst undertaking a risk sssessment for refilling the colour pods in Jul 2019, the site team leader identified this Work at Height issue and a three-step portable platform was placed onto the access platform, along with extending the handrails higher to ensure any personnel that slipped from steps would still land on the high-level platform.  A few near misses were raised due to the vertical access ladder guard not being reinstated after access to platform. | |
| **MANAGEMENT OF PROCESS** | |
| The risk assessment was reviewed again in Sep 2020 (Attachment 2) when further improvement of permanently rerouting the access to the colour pods from the roof of the CMS 2 curing chambers was proposed as part of Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Working Conditions. The site team reviewed the best possible route to eliminate the need for vertical access ladders and to raise the colour pod access platform so that the bulk bag collars could be easily reached without need to leave the designated platform.  Figure 2 shows the potential route identified from existing access platforms on CMS2 curing chamber roof which is accessed by the stairwell from ground level to the mixer platforms.  To reduce time working at height during installation, a quote was obtained for fabrication of the required new structures offsite by SMART CI Group. The total cost for the installation of the new structures and removal of existing access platform/vertical ladder was £8.6k.  The installation was completed during a plant shutdown in Aug 22. Figures 3 and 4 show the new level permanent access route across roof of CMS2 curing chamber and new higher access platform on the colour dosing system. Figure 5 shows Bulk pigment bag in situ which is easily reached to undo the collar from within the new level platform without climbing up or overreaching thus eliminating Work at Height issues  View from below, the new platform is circa 1.5 m higher than original level (shown in red) and the vertical ladder no longer required has been removed. | |
| **BENEFITS** | |
| The initial improvement in 2019 of providing a three-step portable stairs along with extending the original’s platforms railing systems higher had eliminated the risk of falls from the platform to ground level but there were still residual Work at Height risks of falling from the steps onto the platform level as well as a requirement to use a 3.6m vertical access ladder. If any injury or ill health had occurred to any personnel whilst on the original platform, then there would have also been the need to rescue a person from height to get them off it.  The complete rerouting of the access route and lifting of the access platform to the level of the top of the colour pods has removed all Work at Height (Fatal 6) risks from the daily task of inspection and also for twice weekly colour pod refilling.  The new access to the curing room roof is via an existing access stairs and walkways and then the route onto the colour pod access platform is level throughout. All operations can now be undertaken from the platform level, without overreaching. As site personnel are trained in rescue and recovery using a SKED including via access stairways this can easily be achieved from the new access route. | |
| **INNOVATION** | |
| The new access route was identified by thinking beyond just the specific colour dosing system but considering what other suitable nearby structures could be used to gain access to the correct level for accessing the bulk bags collars without needing to Work at Height. The previous solution of extending existing platform railings and use of portable access steps on that platform had not completely eliminated Work at Height from the task.  Knowledge from other Brett Landscaping sites where new high level safe access platforms have been installed, such as fitting permanent high level access platforms into Cliffe R2 curing chamber and use of swing down platforms for cuber access was used to help identify the solution at Pocklington. | |
| **DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFERABILITY** | |
| Whenever considering improvements to access and egress from height all companies / sites should consider whether a safer, though less direct route, can be achieved form other nearby structures to remove vertical access ladders and to gain access at the desired level. It is important not just to look in the immediate vicinity but all possible approach routes, especially from areas where there is already safe access via designated stairways. When specifying new or additional plant – consideration should be given to the access routes and tasks required and look to build in safe working platforms from installation, ensuring that the workforce involved in operating and maintaining the plant and equipment are consulted at the being to identify any potential Work at Height issues and design them out beforehand. | |
| **NB if document has embedded images try and include these**  **If other documents provided say additional information available.** | |