



Persimmon

Health, Safety
& Environment
Department

Winter Working Standards



Contents

1. Introduction
2. Planning for cold weather
3. Cold weather protection
4. Working in the cold weather
5. Lighting
6. Outside the site compound
7. Reporting
8. Monitoring
9. Further reading
10. Toolbox talk



1. Introduction

The purpose of these standards is to give guidance to ensure that work can be carried out safely during the winter months.

Every year the UK is hit by cold weather, occasionally very cold weather and the risk to site operatives is high if working in the cold is not managed sensibly. The risk of a slip, trip or fall is also significantly higher when snow and ice is present on site.



2. Planning for cold weather

We will normally start to see the first frost in the UK in late October; therefore, prior to October site management should start planning for cold weather. The following actions must be taken before winter sets in:

- Ensure that water pipes that are above ground are lagged to prevent freezing, sites must not open if there is no running hot or cold water;
- Ensure that the heaters in the site office, canteens, toilets and drying rooms are functioning correctly; heaters in drying rooms should have a guard over them to prevent them from overheating and causing a fire risk;
- Check that the welfare and offices are running off a large enough feed and that the consumer unit has the capacity to allow for the additional pull of power during inclement weather to prevent overloading and the potential for a fire and / or loss of power;
- Plan for how snow is going to be removed from site roads and pedestrian routes;
- Order plenty of rock salt, before suppliers run out of it; and
- Site gantries and pedestrian walkways should be covered by a non-slip matting or should be gritted if ice and snow is expected.

3. Cold weather protection

Site management must ensure that operatives are wearing the correct PPE and cold weather clothing in order that they can work effectively outside.

- Depending upon the work activity and weather conditions, this could include:
- A pair of safety boots that are warm and waterproof;
- A cold weather high visibility jacket;
- A full set of high visibility waterproofs;
- A cold weather hard hat liner (hoodies and bobble hats are not permitted to be worn under hard hats);
- Jumpers / sweat shirts to wear under a high visibility jacket;
- Cold weather socks;
- Thermal gloves;
- Neoprene wellington safety boots if the site is in the early stages of construction or very muddy; and
- Head torch.





4. Working in the cold weather

Some people feel the cold more than others do and a sensible approach must be taken when working in cold weather. Plenty of breaks should be planned and there should access to kettles to make hot drinks, microwaves and extra kettles should be considered on busier sites.

If ice or snow is present on site, work on ladders, scaffolds and roofs must be prohibited until the inclement weather conditions have passed.

Operatives must navigate the site cautiously, ensuring that areas where ice and snow are present are avoided. If ice or snow is present on site gantries or pedestrian walkways operatives must report this to site management to make the areas safe before they are used.

5. Lighting

Operatives would normally only work during daylight hours. However, site management may remain on site once it has become dark and must therefore be provided with a head torch so that they can safely lock up and navigate their way from the site office.

Consideration should be taken to provide task lighting if work is required in plots prior to mains power being energised, especially in stairwells.

Lighting should be provided to illuminate the pedestrian footpaths from the site office and carpark.



6. Outside the site compound

Safe access and egress to site for our workforce must be provided and this would include gritting of roads and pathways outside the site compound if used as a route to site.

There is no requirement to grit residential roads or pathways unless the road is categorised as a main road route, such as a road or pathway that leads to a large school or hospital. Residential roads around our developments are unlikely to be a main road routes, if site management are unsure then they must discuss the particular circumstances of the site with the local Group HS&E Advisor.

7. Reporting

Any cold weather injury must reported via the accident/ incident reporting procedure.

8. Monitoring

Site management must continually monitor operatives for signs of symptoms from cold weather and ensure that ice or snow is quickly cleared or gritted to prevent slips and trips. If the weather is extreme, site management must consult with their management and the local HS&E Advisor to consider whether appropriate to close the site. The HS&E Department will monitor compliance of these standards during routine HS&E inspections.

9. Further reading

[HSE-icy conditions and winter weather](#)

10. Toolbox talk

Refer to HSMS [TBT](#) – Winter Working

