



SUBJECT: Risks to Pedestrians from Electrically Powered Access Gates

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)
FAO: Site Managers/Headteachers/Commissionaires)

ISSUE DATE: Nov 2010
REF: HSB2

1 of 2 pages

Risks to Pedestrians from Electrically Powered Access Gates

This bulletin relates to all Lincolnshire County Council premises where **any** type of powered access gate is currently installed.

The information is also relevant to those people in LCC/Mouchel who are responsible for the installation/commissioning and maintenance of any type of powered access gates.

Background

The Health and Safety Executive has recently issued two Safety Notices (for the attention of manufacturers, installers, designers, commissioners and facilities/site managers) following two recent, separate incidents involving automatic vehicle access gates that led to the deaths of young children.

In both cases the children were trapped between the closing edge of the gate and the gate post at the end of the gates' travel. They were trapped because:

- Their presence in the vicinity of the closing edge was not detected; and
- The closing force of the gate when they obstructed it was not limited to the values specified in relevant standards.

Action Required – Site Managers/Headteachers/Commissionaires

It is necessary for Lincolnshire County Council managers/Site Managers/Headteachers to contact their Mouchel Premises Adviser/LCC Property Project Team if they;

1. Have any type of powered access gate installed on their site currently
2. Plan to install any type of powered access gate ie during refurbishment, security review, remodelling or new build project.

The Site Manager/Headteacher/Commissionaire is responsible for arranging (via Mouchel Property) a risk assessment of the above and ensuring appropriate controls are in place as detailed in the Health and Safety Executive Safety Notices.

Action Required (continued)

The Health and Safety Executive has provided detailed guidance in two technical Safety Notices (available in the links below) which must be used in the risk assessment review for existing powered access gates or when assessing the risks if new gates are to be installed, the assessment should include:

- The identification of any trapping and/or crushing zones where employees or other persons may become trapped and injured.
- Identify if there are ways of defeating or bypassing safe operating systems in place particularly relevant where members of the public and children use the gates.
- Identify ways in which persons can be harmed should they be activated automatically eg by a sensor, remote button or third person.
- Consideration of any design changes to ensure new hazards are not introduced.
- Risks identified must be eliminated or controlled. This may include the provision of technology such as fixed guards, pressure sensitive strips, safety sensor flooring, light barriers. Consideration also needs to be given if harm could occur if these systems fail.
- Appropriate information, training and instructions must be available for site managers and users on how to operate and maintain the gates.
- Appropriate planned preventative maintenance schemes should be in place in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- The gates should be included on routine site monitoring to ensure they are maintained in a safe condition with records kept.
- Site managers will ensure that all defects/near misses/accidents involving the gates are reported in accordance with procedures and Mouchel Property Team notified immediately.

References further details

1. HSE Field Operations Directorate Safety Notice FOD 1-2010
Risk to pedestrians from crushing zones on electrically powered gates
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/electricgates.htm>
2. HSE Field Operations Directorate Safety Notice FOD 7- 2010
Risk to pedestrians from crushing zones on electrically powered gates 2
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/electricgates2.htm>

If you require any further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Mouchel Property or Health & Safety Team