

Getting specific about safety

Site Safe's site-specific safety plan has been simplified and specialised and is now divided into colour-coded packs to suit the level of contractor and their role on the site.

THE REVAMPED Site-Specific Safety Plan (SSSP) from Site Safe is available for free download by anybody who wants to safely manage complex building sites, from main contractors through to subbies and residential builders.

Why the revamp?

Site Safe's Development Manager Mark Leath says a key part of the revamp is that it has been split into three different types for the different levels of PCBU (person conducting a business or undertaking).

The original SSSP was developed to help large, mainly vertical construction companies manage employees, subcontractors and anyone else involved in a site-specific project and is a one-size-fits-all deal.

Ostensibly, an SSSP is an agreement between businesses working on a specific site that determines how health and safety will be managed there. When used correctly, it ensures the relevant site information is regularly updated and safety is monitored. It will help all businesses comply with New Zealand's Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.



Hayley Barns of Wellington's Mesh Coatings.

Colour-coded packs that match roles

After working closely with seven large firms and many subcontractors, the SSSP has been divided into three distinct, colour-coded packs that match a company's role in a project:

- Whero [red] is for the main contractor (PCBU 1) who has an agreement with a client and is working under their own health and safety management system.
- Kākāriki [green] is for firms directly contracted to the PCBU 1, working under the contractual agreement of the PCBU 1 and required to provide evidence of due diligence with regards to health and safety.

- Kōwhai [yellow] is for firms that have their own internal health and safety management systems, are working in parallel to the PCBU 1 and are abiding by the health and safety systems of the PCBU 1.

Each type of SSSP also has an explanatory guide that's available for free download. Site Safe also runs SSSP courses that look at hazard management and offer assistance in filling out the forms.

Changes driven by industry

Mark Leath says the review of the SSSP has been driven by industry with Site Safe facilitating the process.

'We have done a launch with the Vertical Leaders Health and Safety Practitioners Group that Site Safe's Andrew Confait runs. That got a resounding level of support, and I was impressed and really grateful.'

One of the people working with Site Safe on the review has been Hayley Barns of Wellington's Mesh Coatings, which does plastering, flooring and waterproofing. Currently the manager of the membrane division of

the company, Hayley is a quantity surveyor and experienced health and safety person who has worked for Ebert Construction and Mainzeal.

‘I’ve come from the main contractor side of things so I could see both sides - what the main contractor was trying to achieve but also what it is like for the subcontractor, and I really went in to bat for them.’

Better for smaller firms

Hayley says having more specialised and simplified SSSPs is better for smaller firms.

‘A lot of subcontractors are smaller family businesses. They can be running quite a large operation but they don’t have the admin support and the capacity to do all the paperwork that’s required of them,’ she says.

‘So my goal was to help come up with something that people would use.’

User friendly and easy to use

Site Safe product developer Mark Walklin says the level of user friendliness is one of the main things contractors like about the new system.

It also helps that it takes into consideration work done in the SiteWise prequalification system. Anyone who achieves the SiteWise Green grading will find completing the kākārīki [green] SSSP pack easier, he says.

‘They’ll already have a lot of the necessary documentation together, so they’ll only need to fill out another four or five things, which is a lot better than filling out 18 forms.’

He says where a main contractor expects a subcontractor to adhere directly to the main contractor’s site safety plan rather than supply an in-depth one of their own, the main contractor can opt to indicate this using the new job registration form by indicating that the kākārīki [green] SSSP is all that is required.

This pack has an abbreviated agreement form, and the focus is on recording critical hazards or risks, hazardous products and substances and worker competencies.

Depending on the subcontractor’s activities on site, the main contractor may request additional information to round out the SSSP further.



On the other hand, a main contractor may opt to use a subcontractor who has achieved SiteWise Green grading in prequalification. This provides a competitive advantage for the subcontractor and a greater level of health and safety assurance to the main contractor, as the subcontractor has demonstrated via SiteWise that they have quality health and safety systems in place.

New job registration form

‘One of the biggest things that came out of a survey we did with users last year was having a system that was simple to use and had clearer guidance for main contractors,’ Mark Leath says.

‘About the only really new form for them is the job registration form, which the main contractor completes and hands to their subcontractors.

‘What it does for the subbie is tell them about the site that they’re going to be coming onto and the things that the main contractor wants to know about.’

Mark Walklin says people that haven’t used an SSSP before will probably be pleasantly surprised by some of the benefits, which don’t just relate to safety and compliance.

‘An SSSP is hugely useful in the planning of a job,’ he says. ‘They help people be aware of problems before they even start because writing everything down guides them through the thinking process.’

For more For further information, visit www.sitesafe.org.nz/products-and-services/sssp/.