

Case Study – Construction

Tough approach brings real benefits to Kier Group

With thousands of employees and subcontractors working in one of the most hazardous industries in the UK, Kier Group understands the importance of protecting its workforce. In 2005 analysis by Kier of their accident book entries identified a high rate of hand injuries.

A risk assessment based glove policy was introduced and after calling in hand protection experts Marigold Industrial to equip its workforce with the right gloves for the job, Kier was delighted to see a significant reduction in hand injuries across their sites.

Further analysis of accidents in May 2006 identified that in the preceding 12 months hand injuries had been reduced by 89% and injuries to fingers by 93%. The severity of residual injuries had also been reduced. Where identified as a requirement by risk assessment Kier's direct and sub-contracted staff — employed in the group's construction, civil engineering, building maintenance and mining activities — now wear gloves from the Marigold Industrial range — chosen specifically for the tasks being carried out on site and the hazards encountered.

In addition to providing workers with the right gloves for the job, a key part of the hand protection process at Kier Group is to work with Marigold Industrial to raise awareness of and educate workers about construction site hand hazards and the importance of wearing the right glove for the job. Trades were involved in trials, and the selection process, which aided a change in behaviour regarding attitudes to wearing gloves.

Rather than just focusing on product Marigold Industrial produces a range of educational posters as well as undertaking on-site toolbox talks highlighting the importance of hand protection. In addition to its toolbox talks, the company has also developed a Train the Trainer Pack for Kier Group, enabling site managers to deliver the

hand protection training sessions direct to site personnel.

John Williams of Marigold Industrial, explains: "We're delighted to be working with the Kier Group to create a hand protection programme that has reaped such real, measurable results and reducing the impact that hand injuries have on the company.

"Talking to numerous operatives from all trades, all over the country gave us a unique understanding of the day to day issues on site and the level of protection needed. This is an on-going process, and enables us to recommend a range of products designed to provide protection against the hazards encountered with tasks undertaken on Kier sites — whether house building, civil engineering, construction, building maintenance or demolition.

"Underpinning all of this has been a focus on promoting the educational message which has seen the creation and production of posters, toolbox talks and Train the Trainer packs. By combining all of these elements together, Kier Group has been able to significantly reduce the number of hand injuries on its sites, which shows the benefits that an active hand protection programme can bring," said John.

As one of the most successful construction groups in the UK, as well as reducing levels of hand injuries across the company, Kier is now able to supply a range of gloves able to stand up to the specific jobs on site. Kier Group Head of Safety, Health & Environment John Morgan says "the incidences of cuts, grazes and general hand injuries, always a hazard where construction and civil engineering are concerned, have fallen as a result of the establishment of the risk based hand protection programme.

"Hand injuries frequently result in time off work, but we are now seeing a reduction in

injury-absenteeism, which has not only meant less pain and stress for the people who work for us, but has produced the added benefit of an appreciable cost saving. "Before we brought in Marigold Industrial to help us develop the hand protection programme, we tended to supply a variety of general purpose gloves. Now we not only provide training to increase awareness of hand protection but, having assessed the range of tasks being carried out on our sites and the hazards that come with them, we supply a range of gloves that are designed to protect against specific hazards," said John.

"It's a traditionally macho industry and there can be a bit of a casual attitude towards wearing gloves, but what has been a big help is that as well as being more than able to stand up to the battering they get on site, the gloves also allow for ample dexterity, whether the activity is carpentry, brick working, steel working or general labouring."

John added that Kier had opted for Marigold Industrial not only for the quality and availability of their products but because of their strong support network and the measures they took to offer advice and establish needs.

"At Kier we have a strong belief in the value of effective customer relations and we like to work with people who have the same values as ourselves, which is why the partnership approach with Marigold Industrial towards hand protection has been such a positive one," he said.

Marigold's UK Field Manager, John Williams, concludes: "I believe the demonstrable success of our partnership with Kier, has formed a benchmark for the rest of the industry, in terms of reducing accidents and lost time, but most importantly- keeping workers safe."



Love your hands, we do™

Product Focus



Marigold Industrial continues to invest in developing and manufacturing protective gloves for use in the workplace, utilising some of the latest materials and technology to produce a wide range of protective gloves that meet the changing needs of our customers.

It is this focus on innovation and NPD that has kept Marigold Industrial at the forefront of hand protection and will continue to do so for the long-term future.



4111

Nitrotough™ N250B/Y

APPLICATIONS

Ideal for assembly, engineering and general handling.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Knit wrist glove fully coated

Lightweight supported nitrile finish

100% cotton interlock liner

Good dexterity and grip

Ideal alternative to PVC and light leather gloves.



3142

Picolon Confort 2DO

APPLICATIONS

Ideal for handling and assembly of slightly sharp and slippery objects.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Seamless lightweight 13 gauge polyamide lint-free 100% nylon knitted glove with latex knit wrist

Blue PVC dots on the palm provide elevated levels of grip

Highly flexible with excellent dexterity for optimum comfort in use

Good abrasion resistance.



Love your hands, we do™

Marigold Industrial Ltd

Vantage Park Old Gloucester Road

Hambrook Bristol BS16 1GW

Tel: 0845 075 3355 (LoCall)

Fax: 0845 075 3356 (LoCall)

uk@marigold-industrial.com

marigold-industrial.com