



Ground Operations

Operational Safety Instruction

Use of Personal Protective Equipment Airside

1st March 2018

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It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OSIs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The airside environment can present many potential hazards to employees who work in this area, in particular the risk of being struck by moving aircraft or airside vehicles. Control measures, such as the design of aircraft stands, roadways and parking areas that physically segregate people from moving aircraft and their support vehicles goes a long way to reducing the risk. Nevertheless, there is an operational requirement for individuals who work near to aircraft and vehicles to have additional safety precautions in place such as the provision of high visibility clothing.
- 1.2 Some of the significant hazards arising from operating airside include being hit by a vehicle, exposure to loud noise, jet blast and manual handling. Part of a safe system of work for these hazards includes provision of PPE however this should be recognised as being at the lower end of the hierarchy of control.
- 1.3 Further information on the legal requirements can be found in the PPE regulations available on the HSE website.
- 1.4 This instruction cancels OSI/27/12.



2. Definitions

Abbreviation	Description
APRON	Area used for servicing and parking of aircraft
ASD	Airside Safety Department
EC	European Conformity
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HV	High Visibility
MANOEUVRING AREA	Used for the Taxi, Take-off and Landing of aircraft
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment

3. Employer Responsibilities

- 3.1** Employers are directly responsible for the risk assessments determining PPE and subsequent provision of their employees.
- 3.2** It is a requirement that employers implement a clear safety management policy that identifies risks and provides appropriate control of hazards during airfield operations.
- 3.3** Employers must ensure that all practicable methods to reduce the risk to the individual must be taken before PPE is considered. Where possible this will include;
- 3.3.1** Removal or reduction of the hazard
 - 3.3.2** Substitution of a process or substance with a less hazardous one.
 - 3.3.3** Training of staff.
- 3.4** Employers are accountable by law for supervising, encouraging, and where required, enforcing the wearing of PPE provided to staff.
- 3.5** Employers should consult with their staff and examine the task to be undertaken to choose the most suitable PPE. Where different forms of PPE (e.g. head, hearing protection and eye protection) are to be worn, these should be compatible so that the wearing of one does not compromise the protection afforded by the other.
- 3.6** All PPE that is issued to employees working at Heathrow must be marked with the “CE” mark to show it conforms to the correct EEC standard.



- 3.7 Employers must ensure that any PPE continues to provide the correct level of protection to the wearer throughout their employment.
- 3.8 Employees have a responsibility by law for using and wearing PPE that is provided to them by their employer. It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that their PPE is in good working order prior to its use.

4. High Visibility Clothing

- 4.1 It is mandatory for all personnel operating anywhere within the external airside environment to wear a HV vest or jacket as a minimum requirement. This garment must be fully fastened.
- 4.2 Heathrow (or their agents) will monitor compliance with the wearing of PPE and have the authority to issue Airside Occurrence Notices to staff and visitors who do not comply with this instruction.
- 4.3 A sustained refusal to adopt a safe practise when requested by a member of Heathrow staff (or their agents) could necessitate immediate escalation to the employer and in some cases removal of the individuals Security ID Pass.
- 4.4 All HV clothing must conform to the specifications within BS EN 471 (Class 2 Background and Class 2 HV Tape as a minimum). It is recommended that all airside operators familiarise themselves with this document.
- 4.5 All HV clothing covered by this OSI must be maintained at all times in a clean state.
- 4.6 Pedestrians using the baggage hall en route to another location must remain on the marked footways and wear a HV vest or jacket which is fastened to comply with the local control arrangements.
- 4.7 To be effective HV clothing should be a colour that will allow the wearer to stand out against the ambient background found in the working environment. In practice, the best colour for this purpose is fluorescent yellow.

HAL Airside Operations personnel need to be recognisable on the apron and therefore they will wear a garment comprising of a fluorescent yellow lower body and



sleeves with distinctive fluorescent orange-red shoulders. Other employees at Heathrow must not use this design.

- 4.8** The person in charge of ramp operations for a flight (i.e. The turnaround co-ordinator, ramp supervisor or crew chief) must be easily identified, that person must wear single coloured orange high visibility clothing.
- 4.9** Some specific roles may require the wearing of additional markings or colours, should any operator wish to deviate from the specifications of high-visibility clothing then they must contact the Heathrow Airside Ramp Assurance Team for approval.
- 4.10** If an employee is wearing high visibility trousers, they must be the same colour as the tabard or jacket being worn. Any other variation must have the approval from the Heathrow Ramp Assurance Team.
- 4.11** Employees are not required to wear a HV garment whilst inside a vehicle however, it must always be carried inside the vehicle with them and worn whenever outside of the vehicle.

5. Foot Protection

- 5.1** Certain airside activities present a significant risk for foot injury. Since these activities are part of the wider airside work environment, all personnel working in the below areas are required to wear protective footwear at all times;
- 5.1.1** Manoeuvring Area
 - 5.1.2** Apron Areas
 - 5.1.3** Baggage Halls
- 5.2** Pedestrians using designated walking routes and crossings are not required to wear safety shoes airside.
- 5.3** Footwear must be kept clean and in working order.

6. Hearing Protection

- 6.1** Noise in the airside environment is produced not only by aircraft engines, but also by vehicles, equipment, baggage systems and terminal infrastructure. Damage to hearing is



cumulative and will lead in time to permanent deafness. It is the duty of each employer to carry out their own risk assessment to determine the level of exposure to their employees and the appropriate control measures.

- 6.2** Employers are required to provide hearing protection for employees where noise levels exceed 80db(A) and must ensure that it is worn where noise levels exceed 85db(A).
- 6.3** Employees must carry hearing protection when working on operational aircraft stands.
- 6.4** Audiometric evaluation by a doctor must be made available to exposed workers.
- 6.5** Employers should provide training to noise-exposed workers on the effects of noise and the proper use of hearing protection devices.

7. Head, Hand and Eye Protection

- 7.1** Employers are required to complete a risk assessment of the tasks they require their employees and contractors to perform within the airside and baggage hall environments and must provide head, hand and eye protection for the individuals concerned if the assessment requires it.

8. Specialist Protection

- 8.1** Special tasks such as specialised engineering works, entry into confined spaces and working at height will require the issue and wearing of specialised PPE which is outside the scope of this instruction.

9. Exemptions

- 9.1** Flight crew are exempt from wearing high visibility clothing when embarking/disembarking from the crew bus to the aircraft steps and walking between the control post and vehicle.
- 9.2** Flight crew are also exempt from wearing safety shoes when carrying out the walk around check of an aircraft.



- 9.3** Passengers are not required to wear high visibility clothing however they must be supervised at all times by a representative from the airline or Ground Handler with whom they are travelling.
- 9.4** Due to the nature of their work the Police, Ambulance and Fire Service are exempt from wearing high visibility clothing.
- 9.5** There may be occasions when a visitor(s) are being transported airside within a vehicle and may not be in possession of personal protective equipment. In this event visitors should remain inside the vehicle unless they are moving/transferring directly between the vehicle and a building. In this scenario, the following criteria should be met;
- 9.5.1** Walking distance from the vehicle to the premises should be less than 10 metres.
- 9.5.2** Escorted by a member of staff who is wearing a HV tabard/jacket.

10. References

EN ISO 20471:2013

EU Hearing Directive 2003/10/EC

BS EN 471

11. Enquires

- 11.1** Any further questions regarding this Instruction should be directed to the Heathrow Ram Assurance team on 0208 745 5679 or email ramp_team@heathrow.com

