



FPS – Pre-commencement Piling Standard

1. Background

In general piling operations is one of (and in many cases) the first sub-contractors to work on a construction site. The work is very dirty; the rigs are heavy and tend to be rather large, a lot of baggage (casing, cages, and augers) is needed and there are many daily deliveries (concrete in particular). This leads to the need for certain facilities to be immediately available in order for the piling to commence in a satisfactory manner but also safely and in accordance with legislation.

Experience has taught us that for the facilities to be available it is essential to ensure the arrangements are made some weeks prior to arriving on site. This document offers guidance on the minimum acceptable conditions expected before work commences.

2. Set-Down Area

	An area accessible to vehicles with trailers (usually 4 off) with a haul route designed to take the necessary loads with sufficient space to unload items up to 20m in length
	Within reach of the handling crane/piling rig
	Suitable access from this area to the piling site including segregation from other workers and pedestrians
	If no area is available on site then suitable arrangements have to be made with the Local Authority and/or Highways Agency for delivery times and possible road closures

3. Welfare

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007) Schedule 2 refers:

Sanitary Conveniences

Shall be provided in close proximity of the area of work and easily accessible and shall be:

	Adequately ventilated and lit
	Kept clean and orderly
	Separate men and women, except when each convenience is in a separate room which can be locked from inside.
	Chemical toilets are not an acceptable option

Washing Facilities

Shall be provided (including showers if required by the nature of the work) in close proximity of the area of work and easily accessible and shall:

	Be in the immediate vicinity of every convenience, whether provided elsewhere as well
	Be in the vicinity of changing rooms, whether provided elsewhere as well
	Include a supply of clean hot and cold or warm water (which shall be running as far as is practicable)
	Include soap or other suitable materials for cleaning
	Include towels or suitable means of drying
	Be adequately ventilated and lit
	Be kept clean and orderly
	Be separate for men and women, except when each convenience is in a separate room which can be locked from inside

Drinking Water

Wholesome drinking water shall be provided for all persons at work in the workplace and shall:

	Be readily accessible at suitable places
	Be conspicuously marked
	Have a sufficient number of suitable drinking vessels unless supply is in form of a jet.

Accommodation for Clothing

	That allows or includes facilities for drying clothing overnight so they are ready for work the next day.
--	---

Facilities for Changing Clothing

	Facilities shall be provided for any person at work to change clothing in all cases where it is necessary
--	---

Facilities for rest (and to Eat Meals)

Shall be provided at readily accessible places and shall include:

	Suitable facilities to ensure meals can be prepared and eaten
	Include a means of boiling water

Arrangements for Smokers

In accordance with legislation regarding smoking in public places:

	At the discretion of site management a smoking area may be provided. If providing a shelter the area of the structure, including the roof, is to be less than the area of the openings
--	--

4. Platform

A platform taking account of worst case loadings shall be designed and the design and installation recorded. It shall be constructed and the following noted:

	Excavation down to sub-grade will be done when the platform is ready to be constructed. The excavation will not be done in inclement weather.
	Soft spots in the sub-grade should be located and their rectification agreed with the platform designer.
	Deep excavations shall be backfilled with cohesive material and compacted in 500mm layers prior to platform construction.
	Construction shall be to the required depth with the granular material being compacted in layers not exceeding 150mm using a vibrating roller.
	The granular material, unless otherwise stated in the specification, shall be 'crushed concrete hard-core (maximum 75mm – minimal fines)'. Platform should be free from trip and slip hazards. A fully completed and signed Working Platform Certificate shall be issued prior to work commencing.

5. Access/Egress

Workplace transport is the second biggest cause of incidents in the workplace, accounting for about 70 fatalities each year. The majority of these accidents are preventable. Sites should as a minimum:

	Have a designated, non-pedestrian, access for vehicles with a gateman to provide instructions/directions and ideally a one-way system around the site.
	Pedestrian access (rolled hard-core), allowing controlled access to welfare and a route to the work area, clear of vehicle manoeuvring areas.

Every site is different and present hazards and risks; it is a legal requirement that a risk assessment considers all foreseeable risks on your site. Remember that drivers, vehicles and pedestrians rarely behave perfectly, so allow adequate safety margins wherever possible.

6. Vehicle/People Segregation

See Paragraph 5. Access/Egress; In addition there should be:

	Routes delineated by barrier for pedestrian access between Welfare and work areas.
	Where pedestrian routes cross vehicle routes clear visibility (no obstructions) for drivers and pedestrians
	Warning signs for drivers and pedestrians indicating crossing point.

7. Underground Services

Generally underground services are struck on many jobs and in particular on inner-city sites. In nearly all cases a permit is issued confirming no underground services. Investigation findings have confirmed in as much as 50% of cases that there is documented evidence of the service and the site investigation has failed to find it; usually owing to an ineffective search. The following guidance on requirements is offered:

	Confirmations of an in depth search of documentary evidence for services.
	Where services are known their presence should be confirmed and highlighted on site.
	If services are within 2m of a pile location they should be physically located and as appropriate relocated, protected or removed.

8. Permits to Work

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires the provision of a safe system of work. Where special precautions have to be taken before, during or following any potentially hazardous operation, the Permit to Work should be used as an integral part of the system of work, e.g. Working in close proximity to sewers, electrical circuits (cables), pipelines and the location of underground services.

The Permit to Work should be used as an operational document, prepared by a responsible person who is familiar with the work procedures, the hazards involved and the precautions to be taken.

Where specific hazards have been identified task specific permits must be issued and completed e.g. Permit to Dig, Permit to Pile etc.