

Barrett Steel Buildings Plays Safe

NEED: reinforce health and safety policy and good practice on the shopfloor

SOLUTION: Metals Industry Health & Safety Passport

Bradford-based Barrett Steel Buildings is one of the UK's foremost structural steelwork specialists. With a strong corporate commitment to health and safety, Barrett Steel buildings wanted to update employees' knowledge and reinforce key health and safety messages on the shopfloor.

AIM: "We have a target to reduce accidents year on year and we're using the Health and Safety Passport as a tool to do that," explains Financial Director, Sue Sharples, who also has responsibility for production and human resources.

"The Passport fits nicely with the overall approach we have to health and safety. Whilst we do a lot of internal training, having an outside body coming in to do training and assessment formalises it and makes a noticeable difference."

DELIVERY: 40 shopfloor employees received two-days training on site. To accommodate the large number involved and maintain production, training was delivered to three separate groups, including a night-shift group. They were all given practical workbooks to complete to record their knowledge and submit evidence for assessment.

"Putting 40 people through the programme was a big commitment and we needed flexibility," says Sue. "When three of our people missed the training due to sickness and holidays, the trainer was able to buddy them up with people from another local company to make a viable group and keep it cost-effective."

EMPLOYEE REACTIONS: CNC machinist, Richard Dunbar, says: "Although I had health and safety training when I first started, you have to make sure you're up to date. Doing the Health and Safety Passport has made me more aware that things like lifting and carrying properly are important, as well as safety. Sometimes you have to think twice about what you're doing. The Health and Safety Passport is worthwhile. It's proof you've taken part in training and I'm glad I did it."

Welder fabricator, Ryan Dickinson (pictured), says: "The training was good. It gives you an indepth look at health and safety. I've learnt new things about company requirements and legislation. It makes you more aware of what could happen if you don't work safely, not just to yourself – you have to look out for each other. The Health and Safety Passport includes an NVQ unit so it's recognised. It shows other people I know what I'm doing."

BENEFITS: "The Health and Safety Passport gives us external accreditation," says Sue. "Also, the fact that our employees are learning and being assessed in their normal working environment makes it more relevant."

FUTURE PLANS: "Our training plan targets all our shopfloor employees to complete the Health and Safety Passport," Sue says. "Anyone newly recruited or promoted to a supervisory role will do the Passport Plus. That's our benchmark."



We monitor accident rates and days lost through injury and expect to see a long-term improvement.

HEALTH & SAFETY PASSPORT BUSINESS BENEFITS:

- Ensure employees achieve and maintain a recognised standard of health & safety practice
- Employees are equipped with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk and associated costs of accidents
- Certification is recognised by a growing number of insurance brokers offering preferential insurance premiums
- The Passport is a proven, cost-effective solution to improving shop floor skills and safety, with quick and lasting results.



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