



Amberon Gateman Safety Action Group

Investigation, findings and recommendations.



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Background:

The AGSAG was set-up following a number of incidents involving the safety of Amberon gatemens on Road Closures.

Further to this, incidents have been reported in the media and in trade circles that led us to realise that this was not isolated to Amberon and was being experienced across the country by all contractors.

The main role of the AGSAG was to bring all of the latest thinking, innovation and techniques in to one forum where they could be considered in conjunction with each other and not treated in isolation.



3 Key Drivers for improving Gatemen Safety:

1. Deter incidents from taking place (conflict between the public and the gatemen).
2. Better educate the Gatemen on how to de-escalate an incident as well as an aim to improve public perception.
3. Aim to remove opportunities for conflict.

In order to practically apply the above drivers Amberon explored a number of different avenues:

Body Worn Video (BWV)

- Compliance with Data-Protection regulations (don't allow access to recorded data by unauthorised staff).
- Production of comprehensive Policy (BWV & CCTV Policy) outlining requirements and systems.
- Only holders of SIA CCTV Operators Licence may view and handle footage – training course identified and completed by relevant contracts managers.
- Trial various units for suitability. Particular focus on weight for ease of use & ability to switch on/off.



Amberon have now purchased 10 units of the Edesix VideoBadge including Software.



Static Portable CCTV Units

- Main aim to act as a deterrent.
- Investigation of market place finds that there are large Solar Powered Units (based on VMS technology) or Towerlight based units that are generally large and expensive.
- Recognise a gap in the market so issue the challenge to Amberon's central workshop to engineer a suitable solution.
- Prototype units produced, tested and trialled on site.
- Case Study Produced to outline advantages and limitations of the units.
- Intellectual Property rights registered against the units.
- A stock of 20 have been produced and these are ready to be fully released in early 2016.



- Physical lock system for protection of the data with the only key being held by the SIA licensed manager.
- Remote power switch negating the need for the operative to access the internal controls.
- 2 Cameras mounted offering a combined coverage field in excess of 180°.
- Infrared functionality for hours of darkness.
- HD quality footage stored on a static-state drive.
- Battery power achieving 7 days continuous running.
- Galvanised steel construction with optional box clamp for additional security.
- Wheeled units making them easy to manoeuvre on site and able to transport them on existing trailer fleet.
- Conspicuous markings and design to draw attention to units on site.

Signage & VMS

- Use of static signage as a deterrent to confrontation by drawing attention to BWV & CCTV systems.
- Use of Variable Message Signs to keep the public informed and updated about the works.
- Signage designed to engage the public and promote safety at sites.



Air-Lock Method of Road Closures

- Approved Method Statement produced outlining method of controlling a Road Closure access point which offers greater security to the site.



Escort Vehicles

- Introduction of escort vehicles to road closure sites to allow authorised traffic to safely navigate the closed part of the site.
- Amberon has the largest fleet of electric Renault Twizy vehicles (in the UK) which are ideally suited for this operation.





Conflict Resolution Training

- CRT should aid staff in de-escalating conflict aggression by learning strategies and techniques that can be used confidently in real life scenarios.
- Identified a suitable training provider registered with the SIA, ICM (Institute of Conflict Management) & NFPS (National Federation for Personal Safety).
- Ensure legal compliance of training.
- Updating of the Training Matrix to include CRT.
- First course of 15 booked for 15th December. This will be cascaded throughout Amberon thereafter.



Supervision

- Identification of “Hot-Spot” areas where additional supervision is required on site.
- Provision of an LTMO, Foreman or TSCO on site when requirement identified.
- All Gatemens to be briefed on their roles and responsibilities on site and to be introduced to the clients supervisors.
- All Gatemens to be issued with 2 Way Radios (Walky-Talky) and Clip-Boards with Access Request Log.



Other Considerations

- Promote recording and sharing of near-misses and incidents by operatives.
- Engagement with the public and their perception.
- Changing the culture internally and spreading the findings.
- Further engagement with contractors and clients. Sharing of our findings and the innovations in the marketplace.
- THINK! – ACCESS! Posters on order ready for full role out Jan 2016.



Site Safety for Gatemmen

THINK! – ACCESS!

- A – Air-Lock Method: *Is the Air-Lock Method Suitable for use on your site?*
 - C – CCTV & BWV: *Can you use CCTV as a deterrent of confrontation on this site? Can you use BWV to gain evidence?*
 - C – Conflict Resolution Training: *Have the Gatemmen received CRT? Has any of the team on site had CRT?*
 - E – Escort Vehicle: *Can you utilise an Escort vehicle & driver on site to allow safe access when necessary?*
 - S – Signage & VMS: *Can you use additional signage or VMS to keep the public better informed about the works?*
 - S – Supervisors: *Is this site in a “hot-spot”? Who is the supervisor that will manage the site?*
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- Make sure that you are familiar with the associated work instructions, policies, method statements and tool-box talks etc.
 - Make sure that you have radio's and clipboards with record sheets for each gateman position.
 - Make sure that each gateman has been briefed about the job and their role and responsibility on site.
 - Report any incidents or near-misses promptly to Amberon and the Contractor.



What Next?

- Use the momentum we have to effect further change.
- Promote Remote Control Traffic Light Systems.
- Push findings in to other areas of the business such as Stop & Go and events.
- Keep on innovating. Can we produce a S&G board with secure data download features? Can we produce an automated gate system and remove the operative from conflict areas?
- Investigate and possibly apply for Considerate Constructors membership to help engagement with the public.
- Instigate further H&S drive within the business in 2016; “Safe Site, Home Tonight” and introduce the safety TACTICS promotion.