

Door and Hardware Federation  
The Barn  
Shuttington Fields Farm  
Shuttington  
Tamworth  
B79 0HA

Reference

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Construction Division

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Dear Sirs

## **SAFETY WHEN WORKING ON DOORS, GATES OR BARRIER SYSTEMS**

Following a Coroner's Inquest into a fatal accident, the Coroner asked HSE to remind industry of some fundamental requirements around safe installation, inspection, servicing, maintenance and repair or any other work on door, gate or barrier systems. These are not new requirements but a reminder of the standards expected to ensure safety. I wish to thank the Door and Hardware Federation for agreeing to pass on this important message to as many people as possible, both DHF and non-DHF members and ask that you in turn pass this information on to your customers/clients so they understand what is required.

Each door, gate or barrier is different in terms of its design, construction and how it is mounted/installed at different sites. When inspection, servicing, maintenance and repair, or any other work is to be undertaken on installed systems, then suitable and sufficient information needs to be available to those who are about to do that work, such that it can be properly assessed and planned. Failure to do so can result in serious incidents, injury or death.

A starting point for this is that when a system is installed it should be undertaken in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions. Both these and the manufacturers' operation and maintenance manual (these may be one and the same or separate documents) should then be left on site with client/building/site manager.

It will help greatly if manufacturers and suppliers provide some basic information with these instructions explaining to the client/building/site manager why they are important and that they should be shown to anyone who is to be involved in inspection/service/maintenance/repair/other work so they understand how systems are mounted, how access covers, guide rails or supports can be safely removed, and how they can otherwise be worked on safely, etc.

There needs to be a clear expectation that the information will be available to anyone working on site, and that those undertaking work ask to see it.

Nonetheless, we recognise that there may be circumstances where this might not be the case, and in such instances appropriate information should be obtained from the manufacturer/supplier, before any works commence. Though the DHF TS 011/012 codes of practice for the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance provide helpful guidance, the DHF codes should be used as supplementary to manufacturer/supplier information as they cannot provide the detail of fixings/mountings etc of the specific door, gate or barrier being worked on.

Both HSE and health and safety legislation set a clear expectation that no-one should install/inspect/service/maintain/repair or undertake other work on any door, gate or barrier unless they know how it is mounted, how access covers, guide rails or supports can be safely removed, and how it can be worked on safely, and that only those who have the necessary skills, knowledge, training and experience (competence) should undertake this work.

It is important that these simple requirements are followed so that further serious incidents can be prevented.

Further information can be found on the HSE website <https://www.hse.gov.uk/>, on supply of products <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/uk-law-design-supply-products.htm> and on powered gates <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/powered-gates/safety.htm>

Yours faithfully

**Ray Cooke**

HM Principal Inspector

Construction Sector Regulatory Support Team

HSE Building Safety and Construction Division