

Farmers and Contractors

Working Safely in Partnership

It is vital that farmers and contractors work together to ensure that safety management is a priority while contractors are on farm. Both parties will have duties under health and safety law and open communication is essential to ensure that everyone is fully aware of their individual responsibilities to protect staff and the public. Both parties will need to have in place their own safety management policies and procedures and make everyone aware of any risks from each other's work.

Selecting a contractor:

- ☐ Choose a properly insured professional
- ☐ Check that they have sufficient skill/training/qualification to carry out the operation safely and to the necessary standard
- ☐ Check they can meet your Assurance Scheme requirements (e.g. proof of professionalism such as NAAC's ALBC)
- ☐ Check if sub-contractors will be used and who/how they will be managed to maintain safety standards
- ☐ Check they have a written health and safety policy.

Before a job starts both parties must agree on:

- ☐ Designated responsibility for waste produced from the operations carried out by the contractor (e.g. plastics, PPP containers, spent sheep dip etc)
- ☐ Work plan – ideally in writing
- ☐ Responsibility for notifying residents/public prior to work taking place if necessary (e.g. local residents, beekeepers)
- ☐ If specific local routes are needed to avoid public nuisance
- ☐ Risks of the job and how they will be managed/controlled and by whom
- ☐ Terms and conditions
- ☐ Payment rate and terms.

The farmer must provide the contractor with:

Clear and detailed instruction on the operation(s) to be carried out by the contractor (ideally using maps and in writing).

This should include:

- ☐ Access points and one-way systems
- ☐ Location of hazards on a map
e.g. overhead power lines, underground services/hazards, areas out of bounds, members of the public/public footpaths, shared access routes, boundaries, steep slopes/ manhole covers, bridge strengths if applicable, livestock hazards
- ☐ Location of drains and watercourses
- ☐ The known or likely ground conditions
- ☐ Secure areas where children may be playing or where there is a risk children may stray
- ☐ Environmental designations, wildlife or constraints
- ☐ Specific instructions relating to farm assurance/Government schemes
- ☐ Location of first aid facilities
- ☐ Location of firefighting equipment
- ☐ Information about location of other workers, contractors, visitors on site
- ☐ Details of welfare facilities if provided (or the contractor is providing their own)
- ☐ Contact details and procedures in an emergency.

The contractor will carry out a visual risk assessment on-site. If there are significant risks, the customer should expect that work will be stopped until satisfactorily controls are put in place. Farmers do not shift all responsibility for safety to a third party when a contractor is used, and it is vital to work in partnership and always keep lines of communication open.

