

# WATCH OUT ... TRAFFIC ABOUT!

## The challenge

Recent research carried out on behalf of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) indicated that all 111 organisations surveyed said they had pedestrians moving around their workplace. Worryingly, 45% of these organisations believed that pedestrians were not aware of the risks associated with workplace transport.

Pedestrians may be employees, members of the public or visiting workers that pass near vehicles in the workplace. This could range from someone walking across a bank's car park or a maintenance engineer arriving on site, to a customer walking near a fork-lift truck at a supermarket or builder provider's yard, or even someone passing near a mobile crane.



What can you do to help keep all pedestrians safe?

## The solution

The single most effective way to protect pedestrians is to keep them apart from vehicles, but this is often not enough. The following steps are useful ways to protect pedestrians:

**Warn them** - When pedestrians enter your workplace for the first time, warn them about the hazards that exist. This can be achieved by using signs, notices, leaflets and telling them about the hazards.



**Enable them** - So that they can negotiate the hazards, pedestrians need to be clear about how to stay safe in the workplace. Site rules, procedures and instructions need to be clearly described to pedestrians. You need to instruct pedestrians about what they need to do to stay safe - don't let them move around your workplace until you are certain they know what to do.

**Refresh them** – Pedestrians that are familiar with a workplace may become complacent with hazards and start taking short-cuts. Refresher training and provision of information will help combat this, and also shows your commitment to their safety.

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**Control them** - Segregate pedestrians and vehicles as soon as they enter the workplace. Prevent pedestrians from entering prohibited areas and provide clearly marked walkways where possible. Prohibit people from entering areas where vehicles operate or use barriers or guard rails to segregate them from vehicles. Where people have to cross vehicle routes, provide designated crossing points that have clear visibility for pedestrians and drivers, day and night.



**Stay with them** - Do not let pedestrians walk freely around your workplace. Visitors should be accompanied at all times to keep them away from the danger areas.



**Equip them** - Where pedestrians must work in the vicinity of workplace transport, or pass close to areas where vehicles operate, provide them with adequate personal protective equipment such as high visibility clothing.

## The benefits

**Safer pedestrians** - Following these simple steps will help protect pedestrians from injury.

**Smoother operations** - Segregating pedestrians from vehicles means smoother and more efficient operations. It lets drivers and pedestrians focus on their jobs.

**Commercial advantage** - It will also protect you from claims, adverse publicity, and downtime.