

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Special thanks to all operatives who are working over the festive season.

Please all remember your responsibilities when working for VGC, wearing PPE with the company name on and driving to and from work - whether you have a company vehicle or personal vehicle.

Also, remember that VGC has a zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol : random tests can take place at any time.



See it, share it

The winner of this month is key influencer Rishi Khera who whilst hitching up a site welfare porta cabin to move it to another location noticed that the emergency breakaway cable was damaged. He stopped work and notified the site to ensure a fitter was called out.



Christmas Pay

Our offices will be closed from the afternoon of Friday 21 December until 08:30 Wednesday 2 January. A maximum of 10 days holidays will be paid on Friday 14 December, if you do not have 10 days accrued your remaining balance will be processed. If you are currently working on the Sellafield/ Hinkley projects your holidays will be processed on Friday 21 December.

Payroll Week 38 (w/e 16.12.18) will be processed Wednesday 19.12.18 and payment in accounts Friday 21.12.18

Payroll Week 39 (w/e 23.12.18) will be processed on Wednesday 02.01.19 and payment in accounts Friday 04.01.19

Payroll Week 40 (w/e 30.12.18) will be processed on Monday 07.01.19 and payment in accounts Wednesday 09.01.19

Payroll Week 41 (w/e 06.01.19) will be processed on Wednesday 09.01.19 and payment in accounts Friday 11.01.19.

Construction worker helpline

We have a new Construction Worker Helpline via B&CE Charitable Trust who can provide support regarding financial worries, housing or social welfare.

Freephone 0808 801 0372 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week

Annual leave

To book annual leave please fill in the online form at: www.vgcgroup.co.uk/holiday

Safety is everyone's responsibility Message from Terry Dutton-Wells – director

We often hear the term "Safety is everyone's responsibility" and at VGC we fully support that view. We also believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to contribute to VGC's goal of continuously improving the health & safety of our workforce and the environments we work in.

We would very much like to hear your views on:

- the content of the health and safety information we provide you and the methods we use to communicate that information e.g. briefings, newsletters, social media etc
- the feedback you receive or expect to receive from any issues you raise
- any new safety initiatives you may have heard of or any safety ideas you may have which will help us to improve how we deliver safety.

Please contact your VGC manager, the VGC HSQE department on 01895 671890 or a VGC key influencer. The information you provide will help us to improve how we manage health & safety in the workplace. By working together, we can make a difference.

Manual handling

Manual handling injuries traditionally increase at this time of year with the cold and damp weather.

Use the correct gloves to reduce risk of hand injuries. (Be aware that the wrong type of glove can sometimes give a false sense of protection.)

Wear the correct boots. Safety boots that give toe and mid sole protection and ankle support, marked 'EN345' with 'S3', are mandatory at VGC Group. (Some projects have additional requirements - you will have been told about these at induction.)

Control the risks from manual handling.

Consider:

Avoid: Do you need manual handling? Can you use a tool instead eg a sack barrow?

Assess: What are you planning to do? What is the risk of injury?

Reduce the risk: If you can't reasonably avoid manual handling, reduce the risk, for example by getting someone to help you, and by lifting properly.

What must employees do?

You must take reasonable care of yourself, and others who may be affected by your actions. You must co-operate with your employer so they can comply with their health and safety duties and requirements.

If you are worried about manual handling on your site, tell your labour manager or HSQE. Alternatively use our confidential whistleblowing online form at vgcgroup.co.uk/whistle

Safety award from Balfour Beatty SMART motorways

Congratulations to ganger Lee Pearce on a safety award from Balfour Beatty on the M20 J7-9 works for Highways England: "he has taken responsibility and ownership for health and safety of his gang".



M6 Junctions 2 - 4 '250 club' award

Our team working for client Balfour Beatty Vinci on M6 Junction 2-4 smart motorway project achieved a '250 club' award for good safety recognition and engagement (Photo below is some of the team). Thanks to everyone involved, including labour manager John Daly.



VGC is shortlisted for corporate social responsibility award

We were proud to be shortlisted for the corporate social responsibility category (IRP award). Photo: Catalin posing on the M4 compound where we're working for client Balfour Beatty Vinci on the smart motorway upgrade.

