

George Wimpey Plc 2006 CSR Report

Health and Safety systems and processes

Health and safety is of paramount importance to all of our companies. Our health, safety and environment (HSE) systems and procedures have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of our staff and workforce. We believe that we lead the housebuilding industry in the UK and US in terms of our commitment to and management of health and safety.

George Wimpey

Health and safety is the highest priority of our company and the first item on the agenda of every George Wimpey UK Board meeting. The bases of our approach are as follows:

- Regularly updated Health, Safety and Environment Policies and Procedures guide staff and operatives about key aspects of site safety. The procedures are fully integrated into our Construction, Design and Management process.
- A Hazard Categorisation System is used on all sites to identify and tackle potential risks and ensure that all regional companies are aware of the issues.
- Working groups meet regularly to develop and improve specific issues, while site managers are kept informed with briefings and newsflashes.
- An ongoing Process for Review encourages the Managing Directors, employees and contractors of each of our regional companies to raise questions about health and safety issues or procedures.
- Our Health, Safety and Environmental Reporting System provides complete, accurate and timely data throughout the UK.
- Safety is taken into account at the design stage of all new house types, including the new preferred house type range developed in 2006. If a design cannot be built safely, it will be rejected.
- George Wimpey regional directors and management teams visit sites regularly to reinforce health and safety messages while our external consultants monitor and measure performance through regular inspection and audit of sites.
- We provide extensive health and safety training for our staff and sub-contractors, and run regular campaigns to promote best practice.
- We work closely with the Health and Safety Executive, industry bodies, sub-contractors, suppliers and other stakeholders on safety initiatives and health promotion.

Morrison Homes

Safety is an overriding consideration for Morrison Homes. Our company's overall approach to health and safety is as follows:

- Updated annually, the Morrison Homes Safety Programme Manual covers all aspects of health and safety regulation as well as our own procedures.
- Our HAZCOM system identifies risks and control measures for the use of potentially hazardous materials on site.
- Weekly safety inspections are performed by site superintendents in each community in every Division. Our annual management conference is used as a forum to discuss challenges and opportunities and to identify areas of focus for the year ahead.
- A Monthly Safety Report, which includes comprehensive accident statistics, enables us to monitor and measure safety performance more regularly. The Monthly Safety Report allows us to highlight and tackle issues as they arise.
- External consultants, PROSAFE Solutions, audit our sites and provide service summaries of every field visit.
- As part of our Monthly Scored Audit Safety programme, senior managers inspect every site at least once a quarter.
- PROSAFE Solutions also undertakes an annual safety audit of each of our Divisions.
- Training is provided for all relevant staff. We require all of our builders and senior managers to complete a 10 hour OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) certification programme. 10 hour OSHA training is also available to our sub-contractors.
- Our customers visit their homes during the construction process, so visitor safety is a crucial element of our training programmes and our safety procedures. It is vital that our sales personnel have a good understanding of health and safety procedures.
- We work closely with sub-contractors, suppliers and other stakeholders on health and safety projects. The Tampa Division of Morrison Homes runs an industry-wide Tampa Bay Safety Alliance to encourage higher safety standards amongst housebuilders and trade partners in the area.
- Our National Safety Culture Award scheme promotes best practice in all Divisional companies.