

Risk Assessment

Activity Assessed: Children/young persons in Auction Markets

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Agriculture has one of the highest fatal injury rates of any industry in Great Britain, but it is the only high-risk industry that has to deal with the constant presence of children. Children and young people up to the age of 18 are regularly killed and injured in Agriculture with common causes being:

- Struck by moving object e.g. gates
- Falls from height
- Contact with animals
- Helping around the farm
- Playing unsupervised
- Not under proper adult supervision

Auction markets pose many of the same risks that occur on farms. HSE publications define children/young person into 3 categories:

- Children under the age of 13
- Children between 13 and 16
- Young people between 16 and 18

It is noted that, although parents are responsible for preventing their children straying or trespassing into areas where they may be at risk, all adults working in agriculture – employers, employees, contractors or other visitors – must take responsibility for child safety.

- ***Livestock areas are defined as – yard, pennage area, loading bays, show ring, sale ring***

Hazard	Persons at Risk and How They Might be Harmed	Controls Currently in Place	Current Risk Level				Further Controls Recommended	Action by Whom	Action by Date	Completed Date
			L	S	R	Risk Rating				
Young employees in the livestock areas	Young employee's coming into contact with livestock and being injured	Children under age of 16 are not allowed to be employed by United Auctions to work with livestock	1	3	3	Very low	Continue to monitor policy			
		Young people 16-17 are allowed to be employed by United Auctions to work with sheep following livestock handling training by Director Young people 16-17 are supervised by employee experienced in sheep handling. Director responsible monitors said worker and ensures no lone working with sheep.	2	2	4	Low	Continue to monitor policy			
		Young people 17-18 are allowed to be employed by United Auctions to work with cattle following livestock handling training by Director Young people 17-18 are supervised by employee experienced in cattle handling. Director responsible monitors said worker and ensures no lone working with cattle	2	3	6	Low	Continue to monitor policy			
Children being unaware of dangers of livestock	Children in pushchairs coming into contact with livestock and being injured	No prams push chairs are allowed in livestock areas	1	4	4	Low	Monitor signage and ensure compliance. Without compliance risk becomes HIGH	All staff	ongoing	

Hazard	Persons at Risk and How They Might be Harmed	Controls Currently in Place	Current Risk Level				Further Controls Recommended	Action by Whom	Action by Date	Completed Date
			L	S	R	Risk Rating				
		A show ring/barrier system has been installed in the exhibition hall where public viewing of bulls is allowed Show ring is subject to inspection and maintenance to ensure show ring is secure.	1	3	3	Very Low	Ensure show ring is maintained and remains secure. Although the showing forms part of the bi-annual market inspection routine, there should also be a check carried out on the ring each time before use (Feb/May/Oct) and correctly documented.	Board	ongoing	
Cattle being halter led in the bull show and sale ring	Young persons may not have the strength or experience to control a bull which could lead to injury of themselves or others	Certain breed societies state age criteria for leading bulls	3	4	12	Medium	Introduce minimum age of 16 for any person to be leading a bull in show or sale ring. Breed Societies to be contacted to confirm Company stance. Stewards to receive awareness training especially in relation to 16-18-year olds handling bulls. If steward is in doubt of age or handlers ability then the handler must be immediately removed.	CS	30/4/19	
Children being unaware of dangers of livestock	Children coming into contact with livestock and being injured	A show ring/barrier system has been installed in the exhibition hall where public viewing of bulls is allowed	1	3	3	Very Low	Ensure show ring is maintained and remains secure	Board	ongoing	
		Signage in place highlighting livestock areas and entry by authorised personnel only	3	4	12	Medium	Continue to restrict visitors' access to livestock areas. Introduce a hazard reporting system so that any instance of visiting children entering the livestock area is recorded and reviewed.	Board	ongoing	

Hazard	Persons at Risk and How They Might be Harmed	Controls Currently in Place	Current Risk Level				Further Controls Recommended	Action by Whom	Action by Date	Completed Date
			L	S	R	Risk Rating				
Customers being complacent of dangers of livestock areas	Children coming into contact with livestock and being injured. Most children who are injured in agricultural incidents are family members. Unfortunately, it is the common view that children of customers would be classed as authorised to enter the livestock areas. When in livestock area these children may be less supervised as the parent underestimates the potential hazards. It may also be that the parent will be unable to provide full supervision as they will be carrying out tasks/duties when in the livestock area	Signage in place highlighting livestock areas and entry by authorised personnel only.	3	4	12	Medium	<p>A staff education programme to be initiated to highlight the danger of the hazard. A briefing note will be circulated to inform staff of the steps to be taken to reduce the likelihood of the hazard causing harm. Increased notices will be placed on walls and catalogues.</p> <p>Employers, employees, contractors or other visitors – must take responsibility for child safety and they will be instructed to intervene when any danger is highlighted.</p> <p>Introduce a hazard reporting system</p>	CS	30/4/19	

Hazard	Persons at Risk and How They Might be Harmed	Controls Currently in Place	Current Risk Level				Further Controls Recommended	Action by Whom	Action by Date	Completed Date
			L	S	R	Risk Rating				
Customers being in area where livestock are being moved.	Customers and/or their children coming into contact with livestock and being injured.	Signage in place highlighting livestock areas and entry by authorised personnel only. Employees instructed to ensure livestock route is clear of persons before allowing livestock to be moved. Barriers and gates used to segregate livestock from visitors. Barriers and gates subject to inspection and maintenance. Whilst used and maintained by staff on a daily basis this area is also checked by the bi-annual market inspection regime	3	4	12	Medium	Monitor effectiveness of procedure. Introduce a hazard reporting system	CS	30/4/19	

Hazard	Persons at Risk and How They Might be Harmed	Controls Currently in Place	Current Risk Level				Further Controls Recommended	Action by Whom	Action by Date	Completed Date
			L	S	R	Risk Rating				
Customers being in an area where large vehicles are moving.	Customers including children struck by moving or reversing vehicles.	Customers provided with information and instruction on safe practices to adopt when entering unloading/loading area.	2	4	8	Low	Customers do not allow children out of vehicle until vehicle is in a safe area and the children can be supervised. Customers and their children are prohibited from walking across the loading/unloading area. Customers must not enter or allow children to enter the crush zone when reversing vehicle up to loading/unloading ramp Customer must ensure they supervise their children at all times in loading/unloading area. Direct children to a safe area	All staff	ongoing	

Risk Assessment Information

Evaluating Risk:

This risk assessment is based on the 5 Steps to Risk Assessment model and uses numerical values to calculate the levels of risk.

In practice this means we simply assign a value of 1-5 for the likelihood of the hazard causing harm and a value of 1-5 for the severity of the harm should it occur (1 being the lowest value, 5 being the highest). The two figures are then multiplied to achieve a risk rating score: $L \times S = R$.

For example, if a worker changes a light bulb in an indoor ceiling light using a stepladder twice a year then we can rate the likelihood as '1' due to the low frequency of the activity being performed. However, as injuries as a result of falls from height can be serious (even from relatively short distances) then we can rate the severity as a '4', Using the calculation we multiply $1 \times 4 = 4$. This produces a 'Very Low' Risk Level on the Risk Rating Key.

Another example would be for a worker who regularly has to change light bulbs as a part of their job, sometimes outside and in adverse weather conditions. The likelihood would increase to '5', reflecting the regularity of the action and the potentially increased chance of falling while working outside on uneven ground and in bad weather, while the severity would remain at '4'. Again, using the calculation, we multiply $5 \times 4 = 20$. This returns a Risk Rating of High on the Risk Rating Key.

Likelihood and Severity Key:

Likelihood		Severity	
Rating	Guide words	Rating	Guide words
1	Extremely unlikely	1	No/Minor harm
2	Unlikely	2	Moderate harm
3	Likely	3	Serious harm
4	Extremely likely	4	Major harm
5	Almost certain	5	Catastrophic

Risk Rating Key:

Score	Risk Level	Description
1-4	Very Low	These risks are considered acceptable. No further action is necessary other than to ensure that the controls are maintained.
5-10	Low	No additional controls are required unless they can be implemented at very low cost (in terms of time, money and effort). Actions to further reduce these risks are assigned low priority. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained.
11-15	Medium	Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered, but the costs of additional risk reduction measures should be taken into account. The risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained, particularly if the risk levels are associated with harmful consequences.
15-20	High	Substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity, or to apply interim risk controls, until this has been completed. Considerable resources might have to be allocated to additional controls. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained, particularly if the risk levels are associated with extremely harmful consequences and very harmful consequences.
20+	Very High	These risks are unacceptable. Substantial improvements in risk controls are necessary, so that the risk is reduced to an acceptable level. The work activity should be halted until risk controls are implemented that reduce the risk so that it is no longer very high. If it is not possible to reduce risk the work should remain prohibited.

Definitions:

Risk Assessment	A systematic examination of workplace risks in 5 steps: 1) Identify the hazards, 2) Identify who might be harmed and how, 3) Evaluation the hazard (by examining current controls and recommending further controls), 4) Recording the assessment and 5) Reviewing the assessment.
Hazard	Something with the potential to cause harm e.g. tools, machinery, work equipment, substances, workstation, unsafe system of work etc.
Harm	The damage that a hazard may cause e.g. physiological effects (physical injury, ill health) and psychological factors (e.g. stress), loss of time/efficiency and damage to the premises/equipment.
Likelihood	The chance that a hazard realises its potential to cause harm.
Severity	Extent of injury, damage etc.
Risk	The probability of a hazard actually causing harm.
Controls	Measures introduced or installed to reduce to a minimum the possibility of harm to persons, plant and property.