


Form Ref: HSI-10	<b>Independent Health &amp; Safety Inspection – Blue Star Item</b>	Version: 2.0 Jun 2015
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	<b>Awarded for Exceptional Performance or New Initiative not widely used on other sites</b>
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<b>Project</b>	<b>Principal Contractor (PC)</b>	<b>Date of Inspection</b>
M6 J10A-13 SMALR	Carillion	27/04/15
<b>Site Contact</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
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<b>Description of Blue Star Item</b>	<p>COSHH assessment guidance for first aid treatment following exposure to wet concrete was reviewed as part of the accident investigation of an occurrence of concrete burns. Although irrigation with water was commonly cited as the initial treatment it was recognised in literature reviews that this had little effect in reducing the skin pH even after prolonged washing and the alkali from the cement remains causing damage to the skin for upwards of 48 hours after initial exposure. Furthermore, the recommended volumes of water for decontamination are not easily available on motorway construction sites so operatives may have a significant delay before any treatment can begin. A treatment product was identified which is used by the NHS for treating chemical burns and which is available in easy to use formulations that require little to no training or expertise to use and which have been proven to eliminate or substantially reduce injury as a result of exposure to alkalis (such as wet concrete). The product is called Diphoterine. As far as the UK suppliers are aware, this is the first instance of a construction site being interested in their products.</p> <p>A grab bag has been developed which contains two bottles of eye wash and two 200ml aerosol canisters of Diphoterine. These are signed out on a daily basis by gangs working with concrete so that they are immediately available at the point of work in the event of exposure to wet concrete.</p>
<b>Benefits of Blue Star Item</b>	<p>Diphoterine is available as an eye wash bottle sufficient to treat one eye and as an aerosol spray can of various sizes suitable for treating skin exposure to alkalis such as wet concrete. The Diphoterine chemically binds with the alkali preventing it from burning the skin. It has an additional property of being able to draw out any chemical from deep in the skin tissue and bind it which limits the extent of any deep tissue damage which often occurs with concrete burns.</p> <p>Immediate availability and use of Diphoterine in the event of exposure to wet concrete has a real chance of ensuring that no injury is caused (published research suggests 50% of those exposed and treated have no injuries at all)</p>
<b>Details and Cost of any Specific Product</b>	<p>The Diphoterine grab bag kit cost approximately £700 each. Replacement contents for each grab bag would cost £387.</p>

Photograph



Example of chemical burn from exposure to wet concrete

Photograph



Diphoterine kit and grab bag as taken on site