

# Thameslink Programme Health & Safety – Good Practice 001

## 'Thumbs Up' signage on Moving Plant & Machinery

### Overview/Description

Vehicle movements were identified as one of the Top 5 Health & Safety Risks across the Thameslink Programme. This risk also contributes to a significant number of major injuries within the construction industry.

Whilst the industry strives to separate people and plant, at times this interface requires management and additional controls to be put in place.

Direct verbal communication is not always possible between people and operators in order to reach agreement that it is safe to pass the item of plant. To overcome this, our suppliers on the programme have adopted the 'Thumbs Up' signs. The signs are situated on the back of all plant and machinery to act as a prompt for the person requiring to pass.

Only once the plant operator and the person requesting to pass have exchanged a thumbs up, can the person pass safely.

The signs come in sticker or magnetic form so that they can be transferred from one machine to another easily.



An example of the sign above

### Benefits

The concept originated from Carillion who have introduced the same campaign on the A23 Handcross to Warninglid highway widening project where it had proved to be a successful scheme in reducing accidents on their site.

Based on feedback, the introduction of the same simple, yet effective 'Thumbs Up' practice on the Thameslink Programme has been well received. The communications between plant operators and people has improved, which has further enhanced each project's safe working arrangements around plant.



An operative at the Costain London Bridge site above demonstrating the positive response needed from plant operators before being allowed to pass.

