

Preventing needle stick injuries sustained during operations, bus seat removal & internal bus cleaning

The term 'Needle Stick' applies to any sharp and/or blooded object i.e. syringes, glass, knives or any other sharp object that has the potential if not handled properly to pierce the skin. These are usually discarded objects an employee may come into contact with from time to time whilst carrying out their duties. These objects are normally discarded in places that are hidden from view, i.e. behind, between or under seat cushions, between seat cushions and bulkheads, used ticket boxes and vents. Occasionally they will be discarded on the vehicle floor or left in full view on seat cushions or rear parcel shelves.

All Engineering staff, Patrol van operatives & cleaners will be instructed and informed **NEVER TO PUT THEIR HANDS ANYWHERE WHERE THERE IS LIKELIHOOD OF CONCEALED SHARP OBJECTS**, but to remove seat cushions or backs, with care regards handling. Using a 'rake tool' to clear out any debris from between seats or bulkheads is a preferred option. Emptying used ticked boxes is by opening the bottom trap door emptying contents into receptacle, any jammed articles can be dislodged by using a clearing tool. Be observant when opening vents as these can be areas containing discarded syringe/needles.

A 'rake tool' could be as simple as a screwdriver or other device which can be run along the length of the gap between/behind seats prior to cleaning or removal.

On discovering needles, syringes or any other suspicious sharp object the first duty of an employee is to protect themselves their colleagues and the public. This may require actions to advise others of any danger, or to stand guard as a preventative measure until proper protective equipment, a sharps bin, needle stick resistant gloves and a pair of hooked nose pliers, crocodile clips or pair of tweezers are sought. Needle stick resistant gloves must be worn when retrieving any discarded sharps however, they are just what they say '**RESISTANT**' these are for protection and **MUST** not be used to pick up the object.

Upon discovery in the garage during the back shift/night shift and weekends, Control **should** be informed and a patrol van requested which will contain all the necessary equipment for sharps removal.

Should any employee suffer a needle stick injury, this will be considered as a **HIGH** risk of infection, and must attend hospital as soon as possible, early medical treatment can have maximum benefit. Any first aid administered will include allowing the wound to bleed freely, wash and apply dressing. **Do not scrub the wound.**



Toolbox Talk 27



I have received instruction on the use of a 'rake tool' and understand that I should **never put my hands anywhere where there is likelihood of concealed sharp objects.** I have been given instructions and understand the procedures to be followed within my workplace on the discovery of any discarded sharps.

Employee to complete in block capitals

NAME: NUMBER:

DEPOT:

JOB TITLE:

SIGN: DATE:

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