

# SAFETY ALERT



## Grid Flooring Guidance Documents

Revision: 1.00

Document No: [IW-HSQE-SA-62](#)

Approved By: [Maura Kilcommons](#)

### 1. What Happened?

A number of very serious accidents / incidents have occurred over the last several years involving grid flooring. All of which served to highlight the dangers associated with access/egress by means of grid flooring, grating, and plate covers. These issues were highlighted in previously issued IW Safety Alerts referenced below:

- [IW-HSQE-SA-21](#)
- [IW-HSQE-SA-22](#)
- [IW-HSQE-SA-23](#)
- [IW-HSQE-SA-30](#)
- [IW-HSQE-SA-31](#)
- [IW-HSQE-SA-36](#)

### 2. Immediate Actions

A Grid Flooring CAPA (Corrective Action Preventative Action) was opened to conduct investigation and identify the root cause and ensure implementation of corrective and preventative actions at national level.

A Grid Flooring Working Group was established as part of the Water Industry Health and Safety Committee to support the response to the serious incidents involving grid flooring on water services sites. The Working Group comprised 6 LA representatives from 5 LA's and 3 IW representatives. After review of decking, grating and plate covers inspection processes, inspection forms were developed

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and trialled on various sites.

The Working Group have developed a series of documents which have been presented to and recommended for use by the Water Industry Health and Safety Committee across water services work locations. The documents provide decking, grating and plate cover inspection guidance, permit to work guidance and guidance on a methodology for prioritising grid flooring inspections.

Grid Flooring Guidance Documents are now uploaded to both the IW and LA Portals and available to IW and LA Staff for guidance and reference.

- Grid Flooring presentation – use to roll out the documents to teams
- IW–AO-GL-028- Irish Water Decking, Grating, Plate Cover Inspection Guidance
- IW –AO-GL-028-FM-001- Initial Inspection
- IW –AO-GL-028-FM-002 - Site Inspection
- IW –AO-GL-028-FM-003 - Permit to work
- IW –AO-GL-028-FM-004 - Grid Flooring Prioritisation tool.

### 3. Further Actions

#### Operations – Daily Operations

- LA's to cascade the IW AO presentation and use of the Irish Water Decking, Grating, Plate Cover Inspection Guidance Documents to all LA Water Services Staff.
- Ensure that all future inspections of Grid Flooring on any Water Services

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Site are carried out in accordance with the Guidance Documents (IW –AO-GL-028, IW –AO-GL-028-FM-001, IW –AO-GL-028-FM-002)

- Proceed to carry out the initial inspection (as detailed by IW–AO-GL-028-FM-001- Initial Inspection) on all sites where Grid Flooring is located.
- Carry out follow up site inspections at the prescribed intervals as detailed in the IW–AO-GL-028-FM-002- Site Inspection
- Introduce and maintain the Colour coding.
- Introduce and maintain the Permit to work document for Grid Flooring when Contractor’s or Maintenance Teams are on site and need to conduct work on grid flooring

**Please be extremely vigilant if walking or working on grid floorings or gratings. Report any issues immediately to the authority in charge of the site and ensure the issues are rectified.**

## 4. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact your Asset Operations Lead or alternatively contact [hsqe@water.ie](mailto:hsqe@water.ie)

## 5. Distribution List

Internal		
Asset Operations <input type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input type="checkbox"/>

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Am I SAFE?



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All IW Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

<b>External</b>		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident Engineers <input type="checkbox"/>
All Asset Delivery Contractors <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify All <u>repair and maintenance framework contractors</u>		