



Stop the Work

Within RS Diving, all employees and contractors have the responsibility and authority to stop the work when a perceived unsafe condition or behaviour may result in an unwanted event or incident. This 'Stop the Work' policy, or authority, is endorsed by RSD's Managing Director and supported throughout the whole organization. Every employee receives a formal introduction of this policy via his/her safety induction and subsequent refreshers. All supervisors at RSD actively remind their teams, e.g. via toolbox talks and shift briefings, of the Stop the Work policy and will support anyone stopping the work to raise a concern.

Stopping the work should be done to prevent or react to conditions or behaviours that may injure persons or damage equipment or the environment. Situations that may encourage a 'stop' include, but are not limited to the following:

- Someone hears an alarm
- A change in conditions
- Changes to scope of work or work plan
- Missing plans or procedures
- Equipment used improperly
- Lack of knowledge, understanding or information
- Unsafe conditions or acts
- Incident related events
- Feeling unsafe

If someone has stopped the work, the supervisor will (re-)assess the situation and review relevant risk assessments and method statements as applicable. In follow up, the supervisor will provide information about the (risk) control measures to his team and also improve them where required. If necessary, further support may be requested from the Safety Officer, senior manager(s) or the HSE Manager.

Only until the work place or job is deemed 'safe' by all involved, may work be resumed. If the cause of the 'stop' warrants further actions, such as revising risk assessments or method statements, then the supervisor is encouraged to raise the matter in a Safety Observation Card or Near Miss report, as appropriate.

Finally, it is also noted that no retribution will follow a stop work action initiated in good faith even if it was (in hindsight) deemed unnecessary. Personnel must never feel apprehensive to act on their obligation to initiate a stop work action.

Kurt Rohde
Managing Director
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