



Safety in colour

Construction News (Supplement)

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The Landmark, Marsh Wall, London is a huge residential development on the south-western edge of the Canary Wharf estate on the Isle of Dogs. It comprises two 10-storey blocks and two huge glass-clad towers one 44 storeys and the other 32. Shops, restaurants, gymnasiums, and almost 800 apartments, most of which have already been sold, will also be included.

The main frame is being constructed by J Reddington, and includes jump-form cores, columns and flats slabs. The work is carried out in a repetitive cycle, and benefits massively from a systemised approach. J Reddington has control of much of the site, using its own cranes, piling rigs, steel fixers and chippies, and so it can fine tune the method and the sequence to maximise production. "Combisafe's systemised approach in support of this site offers benefits in both productivity and safety," says Ben Dixon, Reddington's group health and safety manager. "We use the Alsipercha for erecting decking, the Steel Mesh Barrier for edge protection on both types of formwork, the Stairways for access between the floors, and even the Combisafe Loading System for unloading deliveries. "Falls on a job like this are our biggest area of concern, and Combisafe systems have them covered."

The Alsipercha is a systemised 'sky hook' supported on sockets cast into the columns. These provide attachment points for retractable lanyards above and behind those laying the deck, who work forward in a 'leading edge' method. The steel mesh barrier edge protection has already been fitted to the formwork system, so they are working towards a protected edge. Once the deck is laid, fixed and poured, a new run of Steel Mesh Barriers is set out on the new deck, either into cast sockets or anchors or by drilling and fixing. Then the formwork can be struck, and moved up the building to start on the next floor level.

Combisafe also has a 'work through' guard rail system that can temporarily replace the steel mesh barrier, and permit placement of the cladding cleats from within the protected area. The guard rail system can be fitted with the barrier in place, and then removed once the barrier is back in position, taking away the need to ever work on an unprotected edge.

Working alongside this systemised approach to concrete frames, Combisafe has a range of stairways to provide flexible access between levels and a range of safety net fans designed to move up the building below the forming level to catch any falling materials.

The catching width of these fans has been recently extended with the launch of the SNF Maxi, developed in Dubai, to accommodate the extremes of high-rise construction.

Some companies request the Combisafe systemised approach in their own brand and colours but Reddington has its reasons not to. "We use the Combisafe brand and the Combisafe red," says John Reddington. "It aligns us with the market leaders and tells our customers and employees that we take safety issues seriously. You can look at the site and immediately see a systemised approach to safety when working at height. "Equally the equipment is always in stock so we don't have to wait for bespoke deliveries," he adds.