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| **Topic** | Safer maintenance and housekeeping |
| **Entry number (MPA Ref)** | 2024114 |
| **Title of Entry** | Cement silo replacement programme – safe access |
| **Name of Company** | Breedon |
| **Location** | Wickwar Readymix |
| **Video**  **(if yes, please include URL for video)** | No |
| **Other resource X (if yes, please include description)** | 2 images |
| **Fatal 6 Theme** | 3. Work at Height |
| **BACKGROUND** | |
| The Readymix division has undertaken a replacement programme for cement silos, which has involved the installation of 26 silos. The intention is to provide greater capacity and replace ageing infrastructure.  The opportunity was taken to improve access to the top of the silos for maintenance and inspection purposes. Traditionally access to has been by vertical ladders, which require an element of physical exertion and a risk of fall from height.  The company was getting feedback from colleagues that it was becoming increasingly difficult for our ageing workforce to cope with the climbs.  This entry relates to Fatal 3 - Work at height. | |
| **MANAGEMENT OF PROCESS** | |
| This project involved personnel from operations and the H&S team.  The company standard for silo protection systems was reviewed late 2022 and it was agreed that any new silo installations should be designed to include stairways and not ladders.  On installing the new silos, the “Silo protection systems” standard was considered at the design stage, and it was agreed that any tenders for the work should include the requirement for access stairs.  This added over £400k to the cost of the project, but senior management considered that the safety of colleagues was paramount in the decision-making process and showed leadership in supporting this approach.  All newly installed silos are fitted with a stairway, rather than vertical ladder. In addition, 75% of these have included the installation of additional stairways or bridges between existing structures, such as aggregates hoppers. The vertical ladders on these existing structures become redundant, further improving safety. | |
| **BENEFITS** | |
| The main benefit of this project is the ease with which colleagues can now carry out silo inspection and maintenance tasks, including the regular testing of pressure release valves etc.  Personnel can move between structures without having to climb multiple vertical ladders, a significant benefit considering the age profile.  It will dramatically reduce the risk of a fall from height and has made for a safer work environment. | |
| **INNOVATION** | |
| This may not be an innovative approach as stairways have been an option for some time. The innovation is in making it happen and for this approach to become the norm when considering the design and installation of new structures and workplaces.  The focus on designing out hazards is not new, but this example demonstrates a significant shift in the way that the design and installation of new kit focusses on the safety and wellbeing of all our colleagues. | |
| **DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFERABILITY** | |
| This is an example of what can be achieved as an industry if the right approach is taken at the early stages of a design.  Ensuring safe access and egress is now a key part of the design and procurement process.  The principles are being applied to all new installations and there are no barriers to others taking the same path.  There is an expectation that this approach is taken across the whole of the Group and we are more than happy to share these experiences with others. | |
| **NB if document has embedded images try and include these**  **If other documents provided say additional information available.** | |