

PLEXUS

Louise Hunt
HM Coroner
Coroner's Office
50 Newton Street
Birmingham
B4 6NE

Our ref: RMS-CAT.001- 27
Your ref: 132886 – Colin North – 16th November
2019
Date: 3 March 2020

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Dear Sirs

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths
Relating to the death of Colin North – 16th November 2019

I write further to the above Regulation 28 Report issued by Her Majesty's Coroner Louise Hunt on 9th January 2020 to our client, Incarace Ltd.

At Section 5 of the Report, the Coroner set out 5 areas of concern, which are addressed in turn below:

- 1. Urgent action is required to review when and how pedestrians should be allowed on the race track at any time during a race event.**

Response:

The revised Risk Assessment prohibits any pedestrians on the track during a race event.

The drivers of race cars are not permitted to leave their vehicles on the track, other than in the event of an emergency such as a fire or if authorised to do so by the Clerk of the Course.

There are trained staff such as the Clerk of the Course, Marshals, Fire Marshals, licenced breakdown drivers and First Aiders located on the infield (but not the track area) in designated areas during a race. The staff have defined roles and responsibilities which includes the safety of drivers during a race and in the event of an incident.

The only other officials authorised to have access to a designated area on the infield during a race are the ORCi licenced photographers. They are not permitted onto the track at any time when there are moving vehicles.

In the event of a recovery operation being required, there are two defined procedures depending upon whether a stoppage has occurred during or at the end of a race.

During a race stoppage (for example, following a multi vehicle collision), driver(s) may leave their vehicles when all vehicles are stationary and authorised by the Clerk of the Course. In the event that a recovery of a vehicle is required, the recovery vehicle will park next to the vehicle in question and when permitted to do so by the Clerk of the Course, the driver will then exit the vehicle to assist the recovery driver if necessary and then re-enter the race vehicle and be driven to the infield where the driver will remain in the race car and with full Personal Protective Equipment continued to be worn until the end of the race. Alternatively, the driver will be escorted by the Clerk to the pit gate and off the track. If this is not possible, then the procedure for vehicle recovery is also applicable at the end of a race. No driver is permitted to enter the track at any time without authorisation.

In any other potential circumstances where a driver may require access to/from a vehicle at any other time, they may be driven to a recovery vehicle, or escorted to the car by an official in full – body high-viz clothing. Any official who enters the track and infield areas will be wearing full body high-viz clothing as a mandatory requirement.

At the end of a race, any drivers proceeding onto or off the track are not permitted to do so on foot. The Recovery Vehicles are only permitted to enter the track on the instruction of the Clerk of the Course through the pit gate and only when the Clerk is satisfied that there is no pedestrian movement on the track.

Other staff and officials such as sponsors' or promoters are only allowed to enter the track when there is no vehicle movement. This is overseen by the Clerk of the Course and escorted by one of the trained officials.

- 2. Urgent action is required to ensure pedestrians on the track have clear protected walkways and safe areas away from large recovery vehicles**

Response:

The prohibition on pedestrians on the track while there are moving vehicles deems it unnecessary for a designated or protected walkway.

- 3. Urgent action is required to review the Risk Assessment document to ensure it adequately protects any pedestrians that need to be on the track**

Response:

See under 1 above.

- 4. Urgent action is required to review the prize giving procedure and to consider moving this to the "Public Area" as there appears to be no need for it to be undertaken in the middle of the track amongst moving vehicles**

Response:

The prize giving is now undertaken when there are no moving vehicles on the track.

5. **Urgent action is required to consider the safety of staff working during the races and whether they should remain on the track given that they are completely unprotected should a vehicle in the race lose control**

Response:

There are no staff permitted on the track area during a race.

As stated above, there are officials and staff who have specific roles and responsibilities during a race on the infield area and include roles that are crucial to the safety management of a race event. They are positioned in designated areas that are pre-determined on a site by site basis. It requires each site to be assessed and then a decision made regarding the location of the officials during a race.

The official staff are in radio contact with each other and with the race controller in the control box. The Clerk of the Course and senior steward ensure that all staff and officials are in the correct designated areas.

Race events are always covered by professional medical personnel – either from the ambulance service or recognised first aid organisations. These personnel are essential and their location on the infield is preferable as it affords them the quickest and safest access to any incident on the track. They are in a position where they can fully observe an event and access the track, if required on foot.

If there are any questions or queries to the responses, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Plexus Law

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