

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## USE OF KNIVES ON CROSSRAIL

The senior leadership from all major contractors on the programme meet every period at the Safety & Health Leadership Team meeting (SHELT) to discuss the health and safety strategy for Crossrail. Incidents are also discussed and collective agreement is reached on the way forward and required improvements.

As a result of a recent incident resulting in a serious laceration from a fixed blade knife and subsequent lost time, SHELT have agreed the following:

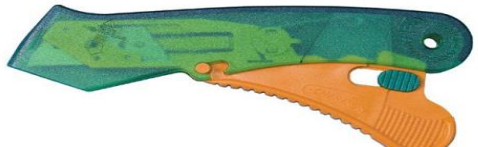
**From the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013** the use of knives will be **PROHIBITED** on all Crossrail sites.

Where it is believed that the use of a knife is the only practicable means of completing the work, only auto-retracting/release or enclosed blades shall be allowed and this must be with the express permission of the Project Director (PD) and/or Project Manager (PM) and accompanied by a task specific risk assessment.



**Standard adjustable blade**

A standard adjustable blade knife generally remains in a fixed position during use even when pressure is released from the handle.



**Auto retracting / release blade**


ONLY WITH PERMISSION FROM PM/PD

This type of blade requires pressure on the handle for the blade to be used. When the handle is released the blade retracts into the casing of the knife. This may also be a spring loaded mechanism.



**Fixed blade**

Fixed blade knives are non-adjustable and non-retractable.



**Enclosed blade**

ONLY WITH PERMISSION FROM PM/PD

Enclosed blade knives are often used as a safer alternative when opening sealed packaging. Consideration should always be given to the size of the enclosure to ensure that there is no risk of entrapment.