

## FRONT OF STAGE PIT BARRIER CREW

Despite the fact that many permanent venues have their own front of stage pit barrier systems that are erected and removed by their own trained staff there is still an expanding market for the hire of barrier systems for both indoor and outdoor events.

Pit barrier crew work for a barrier hire company, they may also be engaged on a self-employed basis, they will be required to erect the barrier and remove it at the end of the event. The layout design for the barrier (straight, curved, finger barrier, multi barrier or pen systems, decked barrier etc) will have been provided in advance by Production Manager who will have been advised by the crowd manager and safety advisor for the event as to the type of system required. On site, the Production Manager will advise the barrier crew as to the exact position for the barrier to be erected.

Barriers are designed (to very high structural safety standards), the sections are usually a meter wide and are constructed from aluminium or steel in a workshop, they are designed to be easily assembled and dismantled rather like Meccano, the sections are transported specially designed in barrows or dollies that can be loaded onto the trailer unit of a truck and lifted with a fork lift truck, the sections then clip or bolt together on site. Some barriers are designed to operate safely on uneven ground, others need to ground to be levelled (by the Client) or chocked in a safe manner. The pit crew must always inspect the barrier after it has been erected, there must be no gaps where feet, hands or fingers can get trapped and no sharp edges. A competent member of the barrier crew must remain on site during the event (particularly festivals and multi band events) and make regular checks of the barrier. After erection and inspection and Completion Certificate must be filled in and given to the Event Safety Officer or the Production Manager, the Completion Certificate will state the barrier has been erected to a safe standard and is capable of its stated with holding its certified safe working load etc.

New advances in barriers now include barriers with computer sensors built into the barrier that can accurately and instantly show the pressure loading at given points on the barrier, this is of interest to stewards working as pit rescue teams and to the designers and manufacturers of barriers.

### Core Skills

Basic metal work, engineering and fabrication skills.

To be able to set up and maintain barrier systems.

Ability to perform simple calculations.

Keeping of simple financial records and accounts.

Ability to understand and interpret written material incl. engineering plans, CAD drawings, method statements, schedules and risk assessments.

Must be able to get on with people easily and have good communication skills.

### Qualifications

Plant operator training and certification by one of the following recognised training bodies certification by one of the following recognised training bodies;

- Construction Industry Training Board
- LANTRA National Training Organisation
- The Independent Training Standards Scheme and Register (ITSSAR) is the administrative arm of the Association of Industrial Truck Trainers training accreditation scheme.
- National Plant Operators Registration Scheme
- Road Traffic Industry Training Board

### Underpinning Knowledge

Conversant with "Temporary demountable structures - Guidance on design, procurement and use". Third Edition published by The Institution of Structural Engineers.

An understanding of Health and Safety practice particularly manual handling, plant and machinery operations.

A through understanding of event production process, methodology and terminology.

Basic IT skills.

### Insurance

Self employed barrier crew will require there own Public Liability Insurance, Employers Liability Insurance will be required if self employed barrier crew instruct local crew or other members of the crew.

STAGGESHARE