

# CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY

## SITE MANAGERS SAFETY CHECKLIST

This checklist identifies some of the hazards most commonly found on construction sites. The questions it asks are intended to help you decide whether your site is a safe and healthy place to work. It is not an exhaustive list. More detailed information can be found in HSG150 Health and safety in construction and other HSE publications.



### Safe places of work

- Does each place of work have access to medical, dental, physiotherapy, paramedic facilities and first-aid equipment in good condition?
- Are there general rules or specific procedures to stop people from going into unsafe, mobile, moving work platforms, buildings, gangways, dormitories, etc?
- Are fall arrest and personal fall protection devices available and correctly fitted?
- Are all walkways and walkways free from risks from materials and equipment?
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- Is the site tidy, clean and materials stored safely?
- Are there proper arrangements for collecting and disposing of waste materials?
- Is the work adequately lit? Is sufficient additional lighting provided where work is



### Manual handling

- Has the risk of manual handling injury been assessed?
- Are loads, techniques, roles, fixtures and equipment used to reduce lifting and carrying risks?



### Hoists

- Is the hoist provided for a particular purpose or general, moreover from being hired or by one morning post office before being taken down the building?
- Are gates provided at all levels and floors to prevent access?
- Are all gates and latches in good working order?
- Are the gates strengthened so that the hoist can be connected there and disconnected?
- Is the hoist safely installed and tested?
- Will the hoist be used only for lifting or for moving loads on the platform or cage?
- Is the hoist inspected monthly, and thoroughly cleaned every six months by a competent person?



### Hazardous substances

- Has all harmful materials, eg solvents, lead, asbestos, paints etc been identified?
- Has the information who might be exposed to these substances been assessed?
- Has personal protective equipment been issued to all workers, eg respirators, liquid-applied protective clothing to workers and others who are exposed to dusts and vapours?



### Scaffolds

- Are scaffolds erected, dismantled controlled by competent persons?
- Is there safe access to the scaffold platform?
- Are all scaffolds provided with toe plates (and, where necessary, timber sole-plates) of appropriate thickness and strength for the work?
- Is the scaffold secured to the building or structure if enough guys/pegs are not available?
- Are there adequate paved fall-arrest floors or an equivalent standard of protection at every level, unless a person is considered safe?
- Are there no more than two people on a single level?
- Is the correct guard rail height (at least 1.05m above the fall arrest point) and toe board height (at least 100mm above the fall arrest point) provided?
- Are the scaffolding platforms fully bounded (unless the boundary is in sight during work)?
- Are there effective barriers or missing edges in place to stop people falling from incomplete structures, open platforms and stairs fully enclosed?
- Are the scaffold joints correctly joined and connected to each other without slack?
- Does a competent person inspect the scaffold weekly, eg at least once a week, through other factors individually identified, managed (such as adverse weather), and repair potential?
- Are the scaffold platforms fully bounded (unless the boundary is in sight during work)?



### Noise

- Are tools, plant and other plant or machinery fitted with silencers?
- Are noise assessments made to determine the noise levels?
- Is work carried out to reduce the number of people exposed to noise?
- Are ear defenders issued to the most exposed?
- Is noise kept to a minimum throughout the day?



### Powered access equipment

- Has the equipment been checked by a competent person?
- Is it fixed equipment, eg mast climber, fully secured to the structure against which it is operating?
- Does the equipment have safety guards, safety devices and safety features to protect people and materials (falling)?
- Have instructions been given to prevent people being struck by the moving platform, projectiles from the building or falling materials, eg barrier vehicles around the base?
- Are the operations tested and competent?
- Is the power supply checked and the equipment turned off at the end of the working day?



### Cranes and lifting appliances

- Is the crane on a firm foundation?
- Are the site markings, health and safety notices, including the maximum load capacity, clearly visible?
- If the crane has a load limit of more than 1 tonne, does it have an automatic load-limited device which is maintained and repaired?
- Are all ropes, cables and slings correctly tensioned?
- Has the hook-blocks/limbs tested to plan signals and to attach load correctly?
- Enclosed cab operators' station fitted out the night and sense of gravity of the load factors (approx 80 kg)
- Are ropes, cables and slings checked and thoroughly examined every 14 months by a competent person?
- Are the results of inspections and examinations recorded?



### Welfare

- Have suitable and sufficient measures of welfare been provided, such as they best meet the needs of those working, resting, eating and sleeping?
- Are clean, fresh wash basins, mirrors, robes, soap and towels?
- Is a drinking water point available for those who have to travel long, dirty or otherwise infrequent journeys?
- Are there toilet facilities for both men and women?
- Is there a site hut or other accommodation where workers can sit, make tea and prepare food?
- Is there adequate first aid provision?
- Are welfare facilities easily and readily accessible to all who must use them?



### Ladders

- Are fall arrest ladders and/or their fall-arrest devices fitted to the job?
- Are all ladders in good condition?
- Are they secured to prevent them slipping sideways or overreaching?
- Is the ladder set to a sufficient height above their landing place?
- If not, are there other fall-arrest devices?
- Are the ladders checked so that users don't have to over stretch or over reach to get to the top rung?
- Does the ladder rest against a solid surface and not on fragile or uneven materials?



### Plant and machinery

- Is the right plant and machinery being used for the job?
- Are all components present, eg exposed gears, chains, etc?
- Are guards correctly fitted and in good repair?
- Is the machinery maintained in good repair and are all safety devices operating correctly?
- Are all operators trained and competent?



### Roof work

- Are there enough ladders and/or their fall-arrest devices fitted to the job?
- Is the most ladders provided, safe and well held? If not, are climbing ladders and/or fall-arrest devices provided?
- Do the ladders provide secure permanent ladders to stop people falling from the back edge of the roof or from angles or partially tiled roofs which could give way?
- Are mobile ladders, paved safety systems, provided where projectiles or rocks may fall onto ladders, safety nets or screens, etc provided?
- Are climbing ladders provided, safety nets or safety ropes for fall arrest available?
- Are mobile ladders or the alternative for the job fit for the task? If this is not available, have additional precautions been taken to stop falls from falling into them?



### Traffic and vehicles

- Does appropriate pedestrian access points and routes (including site roads) for the job have safe crossings, including zebra crossings, whenever possible?
- Does site road markings or traffic signs have been provided to indicate the need for crossing?
- Without traffic lights, traffic cones or barriers, are drivers properly trained (including those who drive lorries, vans, etc) to the driving conditions and traffic worksite?
- Are vehicles measured or do the drivers know the route and traffic worksite?
- Are drivers wearing seatbelts?
- Are passengers restrained from doing dangerous positions?



### Electricity

- Is the supply voltage for tools and equipment the same as necessary for the job? Would higher voltage tools and equipment damage the site equipment, eg TIG or arc welder?
- Where lower voltage tools or equipment are used, is the correct current, voltage and protection of equipment?
- Are all electrical equipment, tools and equipment checked daily by a competent person?
- Are cables and leads labelled clearly by describing purpose, destination or the position away from sources of damage?



### Excavations

- Is an adequate supply of timber, bracing, shoring, props or other supporting material, such as sheet piles, available for the job?
- Is the material strong enough to support the sides?
- Is a safe method selected for the support, to ensure that it does not rely on people working on an unsupported face?
- If the sides of the excavation are sloped back or layered, is the angle of batter sufficient to ensure stability?
- Are there any structures or services nearby, e.g. walls, drains, trees, etc?
- Are ground reinforcement required, e.g. geotextiles, geogrids, geotubes, etc?
- Are properly secured site blocks provided to prevent falling vehicles falling in?
- Does the excavation affect the stability of neighbouring buildings?
- Are temporary retaining site blocks provided to prevent falling vehicles falling in?
- Is the excavation inspected by a competent person at least every shift, and after any significant collapse or voids that have affected its stability?

### Fire

- Is the quantity of flammable materials likely to be a hazard?
- Are flame retardant storage areas for flammable liquids and paints, eg LPG and diesel?
- Are cylinders and cylinders refilled in clean areas of the end of the site?
- If flammables are transferred from their original containers, are the containers suitable for the intended material?
- In combustible areas, are combustible gases and liquids stored in closed containers and away from heat sources?
- Are gas cylinders not in use, are the valves fully closed?
- Are cylinders interconnected?
- Are adequate blank-off plates provided for storage areas?
- Is flammable and combustible waste removed regularly?



### Protecting the public

- Does the public understand or otherwise protect from the work?
- Are the gates kept closed at the day?
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- In the perimeter fencing, escape and emergency?
- Are all ladders, stepladders or other means lowered so that they cannot be used?
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- Are ladders and materials safely stored?
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