Construction projects

Overview of regulatory requirements

This resource outlines some of the key regulatory requirements prime contractors and employers must follow for construction projects. It includes specific requirements for construction sites as well as some of the most relevant sections that apply to all workplaces.

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) and *Workers Compensation Act* sections included here are current as of October 1, 2024, but this is **not a complete list**. As an employer, it is your responsibility to understand and apply all regulatory requirements relevant to your workplace.

Visit worksafebc.com/searchable-regulation to view the Regulation, Act, and related materials.

Topic	Regulatory reference
General duties and responsibilities	
Notice of project (NOP) requirements	OHSR 20.2
Prime contractor and/or owner responsibilities: • Coordination of multiple-employer workplaces • Establish and maintain a system or process that will ensure the coordination and health and safety of employers, workers, and others at the workplace (planning, site meetings, communication, etc.) • Appoint a qualified coordinator • Site drawing showing project layout, first aid location, emergency transportation provisions, and the evacuation marshalling station • A set of construction procedures designed to protect the health and safety of workers at the workplace • Contractors/subcontractors to designate a health and safety representative	Act 24-25, OHSR 20.3
Employer, supervisor, and worker responsibilities	Act 21-23
Joint health and safety committee or worker health and safety representative	Act 31-46, OHSR 3.26-3.27

Topic	Regulatory reference
Incident requirements: • Immediately notify WorkSafeBC of certain accidents and serious injury • Preliminary incident investigation (within 48 hours) • Full incident investigation (within 30 days)	Act 68-73, OHSR 3.28
General worksite requirements	
An OHS program is developed, implemented, and maintained	OHSR 3.1-3.3
Young and new worker orientations	OHSR 3.23
Regular workplace inspections	OHSR 3.5
Reporting unsafe working conditions and remedy without undue delay	OHSR 3.9-3.10
Regular safety meetings (e.g., toolbox talks)	OHSR 3.2
Bullying and harassment policy, procedures, and training	OHS Policy P2-21-2
Working alone procedures and training	OHSR 4.20.1-4.23
Ergonomics (MSI) requirements – identify, assess, and control	OHSR 4.46-4.53
Washroom facilities: • Available, maintained, and kept clean • Including a sufficient number of flush toilets at construction projects with 25 or more workers present at any time	OHSR 4.85, 20.3.2
Tool and equipment safety: • Use in accordance with safe work procedures and instructions from manufacturer or professional engineer • Use of safeguards • Use of lockout • Maintenance of tools and equipment and records • Identification of tools and equipment determined to be unsafe for use	OHSR 4.3, Part 10, Part 12
Prevention of falling materials (tool tethering, debris netting, hoarding, etc.)	OHSR 12.15, 20.9
First aid	
First aid assessment and written procedures for providing first aid and transporting an injured worker	OHSR 3.16-3.17
Equipment, supplies, facilities, attendants, and services per the first aid assessment and Schedule 3-A	OHSR 3.16, Schedule 3-A
Effective means of communication system to summon first aid	OHSR 3.18

Topic	Regulatory reference
Confidentiality and maintenance of first aid records	OHSR 3.19
Vaccination against hepatitis B offered to workers with potential exposure (e.g., first aid attendants)	OHSR 6.39
Emergency preparedness and response	
Emergency preparedness risk assessment (including after-hours work)	OHSR 4.13
Written rescue and evacuation procedures developed and implemented; site-specific considerations (e.g., high angle rescue, dedicated emergency platform — DEP, work in confined spaces)	OHSR 4.13
Emergency means of escape and exit routes; notification to fire departments	OHSR 4.14, 4.17
Evacuation drills at least once a year	OHSR 4.14
Worker training	OHSR 4.16
Personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE)	
Employer responsibility to provide PPE	OHSR 8.2
Safety headgear — follow the hierarchy of controls to eliminate or reduce the risk of head injury	OHSR 8.11
Safety eyewear and face protection	OHSR 8.14, 8.17
Safety footwear	OHSR 8.22
High-visibility apparel	OHSR 8.24
Respiratory protection — when required, fit tests, training records	OHSR 8.32-8.45
Fall protection	
Obligation to use fall protection – hierarchy of fall protection: • Guardrails • Fall restraint • Fall arrest	OHSR 11.2
Guardrail requirements and specifications	OHSR 4.55, 4.58, 4.54-4.60
Fall protection instructions and written plans	OHSR 11.2(6), 11.3
Inspection and maintenance of fall protection equipment; removal from service requirements	OHSR 11.9, 11.10
Use of fall protection equipment in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and/or applicable standards	OHSR 4.3, 11.5

Topic	Regulatory reference
Temporary and permanent anchors and engineering requirements	OHSR 11.6, 11.8
Temporary horizontal lifelines and engineering requirements	OHSR 11.7, 11.8
Ladders, scaffolds, and work platforms	
Used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and/or applicable standards (WCB Standard LDR1-2004 Job Built Ladders, WCB Standard WPL 1-2004 Wood Frame Scaffolds, etc.)	OHSR 13.2, 4.3
Inspected before use on each shift	OHSR 13.3, 13.13
Position and stability (i.e., on a firm and level supporting surface)	OHSR 4.2, 13.5, 13.17
Safe access to every work platform	OHSR 13.7
Engineering requirements (cantilevered from a structure, enclosed by a tarpaulin, work in high-risk situations such as the suspension height will exceed 300 ft., etc.)	OHSR 13.11, 13.32
Maintain the limits of approach regarding exposed electrical equipment and conductors	OHSR 13.19, 19.12, 19.24
Swing stage used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and/or instructions from a professional engineer (rigging plan, roof plan, work plan, fall protection plan, etc.)	OHSR 13.20, 13.29
Elevating work platforms used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (annual inspection and certification conducted by a professional engineer, pre-use inspections, warning devices, etc.)	OHSR 13.2(1)(a), 13.23, 13.25
Work platforms on wheels are secured to prevent movement	OHSR 13.24
Lift truck mounted work platforms only used when other means are impracticable	OHSR 13.30
Safe work areas and safe access	
Safe access to work areas and the requirement for stairway access to each level	OHSR 4.32-4.33, 20.5(5)
Safe access to elevated work (e.g., scaffolds, work platforms, ladders)	OHSR 20.4
Floor and roof openings (e.g., skylights) adequately covered or guarded	OHSR 4.59
Safe stacking of materials	OHSR 4.43-4.43.1
Handrail requirements	OHSR 4.62
Suitable access for the safe delivery of equipment and materials	OHSR 20.4(2)

Topic	Regulatory reference
Adequate lighting provided and maintained	OHSR 4.64-4.69
Temporary floors and supports are capable of withstanding any loads likely to be imposed on them	OHSR 20.5-20.6, 20.14
Demolition and renovation	
Notice of project (NOP) requirements for hazardous materials and substances	OHSR 20.2.1

Hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos, lead, silica):
• Hazardous materials survey conducted by a qualified person
• Hazardous materials abatement performed by a qualified contractor
  • Risk assessment, exposure control plan, work procedures
  • Confirmation in writing (clearance letter)
• Waste manifest for proper disposal of hazardous materials
	OHSR 20.112

Licences and certificates for asbestos abatement: • Employer has valid licence for asbestos abatement work • Workers conducting abatement work have valid certificates for the level of work performed	OHSR 6.2.1-6.2.3, Act 59.03
Disconnection of utility services	OHSR 20.113
Glass removal prior to demolition	OHSR 20.114
Maintain the structural integrity of the building or structure: • Supported as prescribed by a professional engineer • Walls and free-standing chimneys stabilized • Load limits for floors maintained • Stairways and handrails maintained	OHSR 20.111, 20.118
Access areas protected from falling materials	OHSR 20.116
Hazardous substances	
WHMIS 2015: • Procedures (e.g., safe use, handling, clean up, emergency), education and training • SDS current and available on site	OHSR 5.3-5.18
Identification of hazardous substances (e.g., asbestos, lead, silica, sensitizers, isocyanates, nuisance dusts, welding fumes)	OHSR Part 5, Part 6

Topic	Regulatory reference
Hierarchy of controls (elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative, and PPE)	OHSR 5.55
Exposure control plans and safe work procedures for identified hazardous substances	OHSR 5.2, 5.54, 5.57, 6.3, 6.6-6.7, 6.60-6.60.1, 6.112.1, 6.112.2
Operating internal combustion engines indoors	OHSR 5.73
Emergency washing facilities and personal hygiene (including emergency eyewash facilities)	OHSR 5.82-5.94
Containers and storage	OHSR 5.20-5.26, 5.36-5.38
Noise exposure	
Noise exposure: • Noise control and hearing conservation program • Hearing protection and warning signage • Hearing tests	OHSR 7.1-7.9
Thermal exposure	
Heat exposure: • Heat stress assessment and exposure control plan • Heat stress controls implemented • Provision of water	OHSR 7.27-7.32
Cold exposure: • Cold stress assessment and exposure control plan • Cold stress controls implemented • Clothing and PPE, heated shelters	OHSR 7.33-7.38
Excavations	
Underground utilities located and accurately determined	OHSR 20.79
Certification by a professional engineer	OHSR 20.78
Sloping and shoring requirements	OHSR 20.81
Spoil piles and excavated materials	OHSR 20.86, 20.90
Safe entry and exit (stair tower, ramp, etc.)	OHSR 20.87

Topic	Regulatory reference
Water accumulation	OHSR 20.95
Excavation is effectively guarded (guardrails, fencing, barriers, etc.)	OHSR 20.88
Concrete formwork and falsework	
Specification and plans, erection drawings and supplemental instructions (re-shore plan)	OHSR 20.17, 20.19, 20.24
Qualified supervisor for erection, use, and worker training and instruction	OHSR 20.23
Concrete placing hazards (rebar protection, during a concrete pour, etc.)	OHSR 20.25
Prior to pour inspections	OHSR 20.26
Concrete pumping	
Operator competency and certification	OHSR 20.26.4, 20.26.6
Pre-use inspection; annual equipment inspection (including structural, mechanical, and controls)	OHSR 20.30, 20.47
Guarding and restraining devices (agitator, elbow, delivery pipe, etc.)	OHSR 20.37, 20.44, 20.45
Outriggers set up and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (i.e., fully extended and deployed, short rigging, cribbing requirements, ground conditions, adjacent to an excavation)	OHSR 20.40
Mobile equipment	
Equipment used and maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions and/or applicable standards	OHSR 16.17, 4.3
Start of shift inspections	OHSR 16.3
Warning signal devices	OHSR 16.28
Guards and protective structures	OHSR 16.32-16.38
Seatbelt requirement	OHSR 16.21
Vehicle travel areas and curb requirement	OHSR 4.63
Load handling attachments installed per manufacture or professional engineer	OHSR 16.30
Alternate means of escape from a cab	OHSR 16.24

Topic	Regulatory reference
Tower cranes	
Notice of project (NOP) for tower crane activity	OHSR 14.73.3
Supervisor and crew qualification for the crane activity being performed (i.e., erection, climbing, repositioning, or dismantling)	OHSR 14.2, 14.73.2
Instruction and written procedures specific to the workplace and crane activity being performed	OHSR 14.2
Inspection and maintenance, procedures, and qualified repair persons	OHSR 14.13
Manuals and records	OHSR 14.79, 4.9
Operator qualifications and certification	OHSR 14.34-14.34.1
Pre-use inspection and limits testing	OHSR 14.35, 14.81
Tower crane support engineering requirements (e.g., soils, foundation design, foundation inspection, concrete breaking strength)	OHSR 14.2, 14.74
Structural components inspection	OHSR 14.75, 14.77
Test blocks engineering	OHSR 14.82
Hoisting rope (load line) information and inspection	OHSR 14.91
Zone-limiting or anti-collision device installed when overlapping with another tower crane or in proximity of high voltage power lines	OHSR 14.84.1, 19.24.1
Overlapping with other pieces of equipment (mobile crane, concrete pump, etc.)	OHSR 14.84.1, 14.49.1
Wind limitation	OHSR 14.92
High angle rescue plan — fire department notified, tower crane fall protection plan	OHSR 4.13, 14.88
Assigned radio frequency and communication between operators	OHSR 14.49-14.49.1
Loads over work areas — arrange work to prevent passing a load over any person	OHSR 14.44
Qualified riggers	OHSR 15.2
Rigging and lifting equipment — pre-use and annual inspected inspections	OHSR 15.31, 15.50
Thrust out crane landing platform: • Platform and building certifications • Enclosed sides • Marked to indicate rated capacity	OSHR 20.13

Topic	Regulatory reference
Critical lift procedures, hoisting and lowering work or rescue platforms	OHSR 13.1, 13.29-13.33, 14.42.1
Electrical safety	
Assurance in writing (Form 30M33); worker knowledge of the voltage	OHSR 19.24-19.25
Hierarchy of controls: • Maintain the limits of approach • Displace or re-route (e.g., relocate underground) • Isolate and grounded (de-energize) • Guarding, safety watcher, acceptable safe work procedures	OHSR 19.12, 19.16, 19.18, 19.24-19.25
Disconnection and lockout	OHSR 19.10, 19.16
Warning signs	OHSR 19.11, 19.17
Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) or valid assured grounding variance by the electrical authority	OHSR 19.15
Traffic control	
Responsibility to ensure effective traffic control	OHSR 18.2
Traffic control equipment, arrangements, and procedures per the *Traffic Management Manual*	OHSR 18.3
Traffic control risk assessment, planning, and supervision	OHSR 18.3.1-18.3.2, 18.4
Order of control measures (hierarchy of controls): • Eliminate risk (isolate work zone) • Temporary traffic control devices and/or area arrangements to eliminate need for traffic control persons • Administrative controls (reduce number of workers, work at times of low traffic) • Use traffic control persons (TCPs) only after the control measures set out above, either alone or in combination are not feasible or ineffective	OHSR 18.3.3
Traffic control person (TCP): • When not to use TCP • Training of TCPs and traffic assistants • Location of TCP • Protective equipment	OHSR 18.6-18.10

Topic	Regulatory reference
Traffic control signage and devices	OHSR 18.9-18.11
Confined spaces	
All confined spaces at a worksite are identified, marked, and secured	OHSR 9.2-9.4
Hazard assessment by qualified person and written procedures before entry or work inside occurs	OHSR 9.9-9.12
Confined space program and written procedures for atmospheric testing, entry, controls, work, rescue	OHSR 9.5
Tilt-up building construction	
Specifications and plans certified by a professional engineer; site inspected by engineer	OHSR 20.55, 20.56, 20.58
Panel handling	OHSR 20.57
Temporary bracing and inspection prior to removal of temporary bracing	OHSR 20.59
Adequate ground or slab capacity to support the mobile crane and load	OHSR 14.69

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