

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Fact Sheet

New workplace health and safety laws fact sheet***Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995******Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008*****General safety induction training**

Workers performing construction work, other than the repair of fixed plant, ships or submarines, must complete a general safety induction course (i.e. hold an induction card or statement of attainment).

The definition of construction work has been extended to include renovations and refurbishments regardless of whether the work involves structural alteration, repairs, fit-out, asbestos removal work (that requires a certificate) and demolition.

People performing these new types of work included in the construction work definition (see *What is construction work under the new definition?* fact sheet) have until 1 January 2007 to obtain a General Safety Induction (Construction Industry) Card.

2.4 metre height limit reduced to 2 metres

On 1 January 2006, the height at which safety controls must be implemented for construction work (other than housing construction work) changed from 2.4 metres to 2 metres. The need for safety controls to be implemented at this height has also been extended to work that was not previously considered construction work.

This means that construction work (other than housing construction) involving the erection and repair of structures, including buildings and other fixed plant, will need to implement safety measures where there is a risk of a fall of 2 metres or more.

Falling objects

Laws to keep members of the public safe from falling objects have been extended to cover people both near and within construction site boundaries. The change came into effect on 1 January 2006.

The *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008* now requires principal contractors, employers and self-employed people to close an adjoining area or erect a suitable gantry if loads are being lifted over any person in an adjoining area.

Work method statements

From 1 January 2006, more activities are classed as high-risk construction activities. This means that work method statements must now be prepared if the activity is in the following table, or involves any of the follow activities in the table. The table also sets out the predominant risk that must be addressed in the work method statement.

High-risk construction activity Predominant risk

High-risk construction activity	Predominant risk
Entering a trench that is more than 1.5m deep	• Trench collapse
Using explosives	• Explosion
Using a confined space	• Working in confined spaces
Using a hazardous substance	• Being exposed to hazardous substances
Working at heights of 3 meters or more (housing construction work)	• Falling

High-risk construction activity	Predominant risk
Working at heights of 2 metres or more (not housing construction work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling
Working on a roof with a pitch of more than 26 degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling
Tilt-up and precast construction work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being struck by precast panel or components being placed into position Being hit or crushed by a panel or component that is not properly restrained
Structural alterations that require temporary support to prevent collapse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being struck or crushed by the structure or part of the structure that requires temporary support
Moving powered mobile plant at the workplace (Powered mobile plant includes plant that has motive power created by an internal combustion engine, electric motor, and hydraulic systems or similar or a combination of motive power.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators being crushed by powered mobile plant that may lose stability e.g. roll over Objects falling onto the powered mobile plant Other people being hit or crushed by powered mobile plant
Work on telecommunication towers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffering burn/heating due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> currents induced in body (from metal implants/steel capped boots etc) body parts coming into the main beams of telecommunication transmissions
Work in, over or adjacent to water where there is a risk of drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falling into the water
Working on, or adjacent to, a road or railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being hit by passing traffic
Work on or near a pressurised gas distribution mains and consumer piping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fracturing the mains or piping from contact
Work on or near a chemical, fuel or refrigerant line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fracturing the line from contact
Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire or explosion from an ignition source Asphyxiation or poisoning from contaminated atmosphere
Work in an area where there are artificial extremes of temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to extremes in temperature
Work near an exposed energised electrical installation Note: management of the obligation is via the <i>Electrical Safety Act 2002</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrocution or electric shock

Further information

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Fact Sheet – General Safety Induction Training
PN10047 Version 1. Last updated 28 April 2009.