

Safety Alert

To: All EGT Apprentices and Supervising Electrical Workers
From: Paul Laycock, OSH Advisor
CC: Field Officers
Date: 20 April 2009
Re: **High Risk Construction Work** **SA16**

On the 1st October 2008 the National Standard for construction work came into effect.
(Part 3, Division 12. Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996.)

These new laws place additional Occupational Safety and Health requirements on clients, designers, main contractors and anyone who has control of a worksite

They also identify 19 tasks that are deemed '*high risk construction work*' and anyone in control of carrying out these tasks must now prepare and keep on site a Safe Work Method Statement (or a JSA /JHA) for that task and work in accordance with it.

What is 'high risk construction work'?

1. construction work involving a risk of a person falling 2 metres or more,
2. construction work on telecommunications towers,
3. construction work involving demolition,
4. construction work involving disturbing or removing asbestos,
5. construction work involving alteration to a structure that requires the structure to be temporarily supported to prevent its collapse,
6. construction work involving a confined space,
7. construction work involving excavation to a depth of more than 1.5 metres,
8. the construction of tunnels,
9. construction work involving the use of explosives,
10. construction work on or near pressurised gas pipes (including distribution mains),
11. construction work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines,
- 12. construction work on or near energised electrical installations and lines (whether overhead or underground)**
13. construction work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere,
14. construction work involving tilt-up or pre-cast concrete,
15. construction work on or adjacent to roads or railways that are in use,
16. work on a construction site where there is movement of powered mobile plant,
17. construction work in an area where there are artificial extremes of temperature,
18. construction work in, over or adjacent to water or other liquids if there is a risk of drowning,
19. Work involving diving.

What is the minimum information that must be included in a Safe Work Method Statement for any of the high risk construction work categories?

1. Each high risk construction work activity that either is or includes a hazard to which a person is likely to be exposed,

2. The risk of injury or harm arising from those hazards (can simply be achieved by giving the risk a score against a risk matrix),
3. The safety measures to be implemented to reduce the risk(s), including control measures to be applied,
4. A description of the equipment used in the work activity,
5. Any qualification or training required to enable people to do the work safely, and
6. The name and signature of every person involved in the activity.

The amendments also require that any 'main contractor' for a construction site where 5 or more people* are, or are likely to be working at the same time, must have a site specific Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan. This plan must be in writing and remain on site until the construction work is completed.

*people, do not need to be direct employees.

What must be included as a minimum in an Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan?

1. Identify each person with a specific OS&H Responsibility at the construction site and describe how those responsibilities are coordinated,
2. Describe the OS&H Induction training that will take place in relation to the construction work being done at the site,
3. Describe the arrangements for managing incidents at the site,
4. Set out the site safety rules and describe the arrangements for ensuring that everyone at or visitors to the site are aware of those rules,
5. Include the information held by the main contractor in relation to the identified hazards and the control measures in place,
6. Include the Safe Work Method Statement that has been prepared for any high risk construction work to be done on the site

Electrical Group Training acknowledge that as apprentices you will not have control of the work place, but you must be aware that if asked to carry out any of the tasks identified in the list of *High Risk Construction Work*, that you must be working in accordance with a **Safe Work Method Statement** or have signed off on a **JSA/JHA** for the task involved.

You must also be aware that if there are more that 5 people expected to be working on site there needs to be a **Site Specific Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan** in place, the use of your Risk Assessment checklist being part of the requirements of the OS&H Management Plan.

Remember you must always use your risk assessment checklist for each task