

Construction Hazards and Risks Control

Lecture Title: Recap of the construction hazard and risk control

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Undergraduate Diploma in
Occupational Health and Safety

Legislation

- Chapter 646 of 2024 – Health and safety at Work Act



- SL 646.27 - LN 52 of 2025 -HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK (MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK AT CONSTRUCTION SITES)REGULATIONS,

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project preparation stage.

Duties of the Project supervisor for health and safety matters: project preparation stage

11. The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall coordinate the implementation of the provisions of regulation 7.

Duties of the
project supervisor
for health and
safety matters:
project preparation
stage.

12. (1) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall draw up a health and safety plan setting out the rules applicable to the construction site concerned, taking into account, where necessary, of the industrial activities taking place on the site. The said plan shall also include specific measures concerning work which falls within one or more of the categories of Schedule II.

Health and safety
plan.

(2) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall make any adjustments required to the health and safety plan to take account of the progress of the work and any changes which have occurred.

13. (1) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall prepare a file appropriate to the characteristics of the project containing relevant health and safety information to be taken

Health and safety
file.

into consideration during any subsequent works.

(2) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall make any adjustments required to the health and safety file to take account of the progress of the work and any changes which have occurred.

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project execution stage.

Management of
health and, or
safety at the
construction site.

15. In order to preserve health and, or safety on the construction site, the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall:

(a) coordinate the implementation of the relevant provisions of these regulations or any other provisions under the Act, in order to ensure that employers offer the highest protection by applying the principles referred to in regulation 18 or any other regulation made under the Act in a consistent manner;

(b) coordinate the implementation of the relevant provisions of these regulations in order to ensure that

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employers and, if necessary for the protection of workers, self employed persons follow the health and safety plan referred to in regulation 12;

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project execution stage.

Duties of the project supervisor for health and safety matters: Project Execution Stage

General principles
of prevention,
health and safety
plan, and health
and safety file.

14. (1) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall coordinate the implementation of the general principles of prevention and safety:

- (a) when technical and, or organizational aspects are being decided, in order to plan the various items or stages of work which are to take place simultaneously or in succession;
- (b) when estimating the period required for completing such work or work stages.

(2) The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall coordinate the implementation of the relevant provisions of these regulations in order to ensure that contractors, employers and, if necessary for the protection of workers, self-employed persons:

- (a) apply the principles referred to in regulation 18 in a consistent manner;
- (b) where required, follow the health and safety plan referred to in regulation 12;
- (c) make and, or cause to be made, any adjustments required to the health and safety plan referred to in regulation 12 and the file referred to in regulation 13 to take account of the progress of the work and any changes which have occurred.

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project execution stage.

(c) organize cooperation between contractors, including successive contractors on the same site, coordination of their activities with a view to protecting workers and preventing accidents and occupational health hazards and reciprocal information, as provided for in regulation 7 of the General Provisions for Health and Safety at Work Places Regulations, ensuring that self-employed persons are brought into this process where necessary;

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(d) take the steps necessary to ensure that only authorized persons are allowed onto the construction site;

(e) carry out as often as necessary a thorough inspection of the whole construction site and work practices to identify the measures being undertaken by the contractors, employers or any self-employed persons in identifying any potential hazards, and recommend the necessary preventive and protective measures in line with the general principles of prevention laid down in the Act, or any other regulations made under the Act:

Provided that the frequency of inspections shall be commensurate with the size of the construction site, the nature and extent of the hazards and risks at the construction site, and the type of works being carried out;

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project execution stage.

(f) issue and submit without undue delay to the relevant duty holders involved in the construction project, an inspection report in writing highlighting the measures being undertaken by the contractors, employers or any self-employed persons in identifying any potential hazards and risks and any unaddressed hazards and risks noted during the inspection carried out under these regulations and the required preventive and corrective measures to be taken by the relevant duty holders to address the identified hazards and risks and, or manage health and safety:

Provided that for the purpose of this paragraph "duty holders" shall not include "workers";

(g) give directions to duty holders and other relevant persons, in the interest of occupational health and, or safety;

(h) coordinate, monitor the implementation of and ensure the execution of the required preventive and corrective measures indicated in the inspection report prepared under

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these regulations, and any other measures required to render the site safe;

Duties of PS for health and safety matters: project execution stage.

(i) coordinate, monitor the implementation of and ensure the execution of, the preventive and protective measures indicated in the health and safety plan prepared in terms of these regulations;

(j) carry out as often as necessary, follow-up inspections to ensure the implementation of the preventive and protective measures indicated in the inspection report and any directions made and given out under these regulations;

(k) give a written copy of the health and safety plan prepared in terms of these regulations, or a relevant extract thereof to all duty holders in terms of these regulations:

Provided that for the purpose of this paragraph "duty holders" shall not include "workers";

(l) consult and liaise on matters relating to occupational health and, or safety with respect to the construction project, with any designated persons and, or external services appointed by the employer in terms of regulation 9 of the General Provisions for Health and Safety at Work Places Regulations.

S.L. 646:11.

Powers and other duties of PS

Powers and other duties of project supervisor for health and safety matters

Powers and other duties of project supervisor for health and safety matters.

16. In order to preserve health and, or safety on the construction site, the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall have the following powers:

(a) to inspect at any time of day or night the construction site to which he has been appointed to act as project supervisor for health and safety matters to fulfil the duties made under these regulations;

(b) to make such examination, interview and investigation as may in any circumstances be necessary in the interest of occupational health and, or safety;

(c) to take such measurements, photographs, video recording and, or any other recordings, including the use of monitoring equipment and atmospheric sampling, as the project supervisor for health and safety matters considers necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the duties under these regulations:

Powers and other duties of PS

Provided that the handling and storage of personal data resulting from the said activities shall conform to the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

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(d) to order that work or any activity be halted or to give such orders in relation to the carrying out of duties by any employee or self-employed persons on the site if there is a reasonable concern that the carrying out of work and, or activity could likely expose any person present on the construction site to a serious risk to their health and, or safety, emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard:

Provided that the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall, without undue delay, notify in writing the duty holders involved in the construction project. The project supervisor for health and safety matters shall inform the Authority of any order made in accordance with this paragraph in such instances where such orders are not observed or complied with:

Provided further that for the purpose of this paragraph "duty holders" shall not include "workers";

(e) to require any article, substance, material, equipment, machinery, installation, structure, apparatus, tool and any other thing at the construction site that he may reasonably consider to be a risk to occupational health and, or safety to be dismantled and, or removed from the site and, or rectified and, or subjected to any process or test at the expense of the relevant duty holder;

Powers and other duties of PS

(f) (i) to receive and register any report made by any person in relation to any matter which may give rise to suspicion of a breach of these regulations, or the Act or any regulations made thereunder:

The reporting function of the project supervisor for health and safety matters.

Provided that if a worker or any person, whether acting on his own behalf or on behalf of a worker, report a matter in terms of this regulation to the project supervisor for health and safety matters, then the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall prepare his written report in relation to such a matter within fifteen (15) days from the date on which such matter was reported to him in writing, and after having heard the client, including any client representative engaged by the client, any worker or person making a report in terms of this sub-paragraph. Once completed, such report shall be provided to the client and the worker or any person, whether acting on his own behalf or on behalf of a worker, accordingly. Where deemed necessary by the project supervisor for health and safety matters, the report shall indicate such measures which

Powers and other duties of PS

shall need to be implemented by the client in order to address any particular matter taking into account the obligations of the client under the Act. Failure to present such a report shall be considered to be an offence under the Act;

(ii) to register any matter reported in terms of this regulation and the matter shall be considered to be conclusively determined provided that any measure specified by the project supervisor for health and safety matters in terms of these regulations is implemented accordingly within stipulated time-frames:

Provided that if the measures specified by the project supervisor for health and safety matters not be implemented or adhered to in terms of these regulations, the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall inform the Authority accordingly and the client shall be guilty of an offence under the Act in such instances:

Provided further that in the case that the project supervisor for health and safety matters has failed to make the correct recommendations to the client in accordance with the Act and the regulations made thereunder, then in such instances the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall be guilty of an offence under the Act.

Provided further that, except where required by law or deemed necessary, the project supervisor for health and safety matters shall ensure the anonymity of any person who reports any matter which may give rise to suspicion of a breach of these regulations, or the Act or any regulations made thereunder. The identity of the said person may be disclosed only with their explicit written consent.

PS: non-liability

Project supervisor
for health and
safety matters:
non-liability.

Project supervisor for health and safety matters: non-liability

17. Civil action or other proceedings for damages shall not lie or be instituted by a client, contractor, employer, self-employed person, or worker involved in the construction project against the project supervisor for health and safety matters for:

(a) an act done in pursuance of these regulations unless the project supervisor for health and safety matters acted in a negligent manner or otherwise did not observe his duties as provided under the Act and these regulations;

(b) an act done or omitted to be done in the

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performance of his functions where it is sufficiently proven that the client or the contractor, the employer or the self-employed person failed to comply with the necessary measures as instructed by the project supervisor for health and safety matters.

Definitions of Suitable, Sufficient and Systematic RA

- Suitable: A suitable risk assessment is one that is appropriate for the specific hazards and risks present in a particular environment or task. It should take into account the unique characteristics of the workplace/ task, the tasks being performed, and the individuals involved. This means that the assessment must be tailored to effectively identify and address the risks associated with that context.



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Sufficient

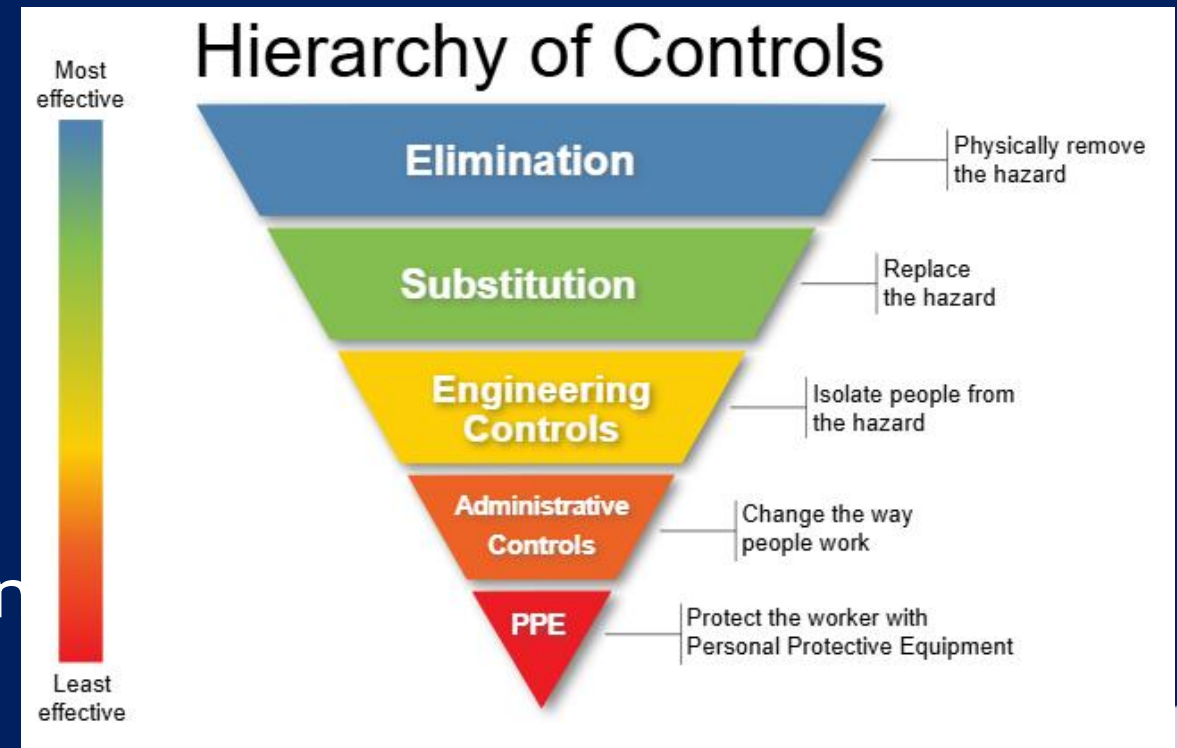
- A sufficient risk assessment is comprehensive enough to cover all relevant hazards and risks. It should provide enough detail to ensure that all potential dangers are identified and evaluated. This includes considering the likelihood of incidents occurring, the severity of potential outcomes, and the effectiveness of existing control measures. A sufficient assessment ensures that all necessary precautions are taken to protect health and safety.

Systematic

- A systematic risk assessment follows a structured and methodical process. This involves clearly defined steps, such as identifying hazards, assessing risks, implementing control measures, and reviewing the assessment regularly. A systematic approach ensures that no steps are overlooked and that the assessment is thorough and repeatable. It also helps in maintaining consistency in how risks are evaluated and managed over time.

Hierarchy of Controls Overview

- 1. Elimination
- 2. Substitution
- 3. Engineering Controls
- 4. Administrative Controls
- 5. Personal Protective Equipment



Key Safety Data in Construction

- Incident and accident reports
- Near- miss reports
- Inspections and audit
- Risk assessments & method statements
- Training records



Incident & Accident Data

- Mandatory reporting and investigation – Employee are obliged to report and employers are obliged to investigate these reports.
- Identifies systemic failures
- Required for corrective measures



Near- Miss Reporting

- SL 646.27 promotes preventive action
- *(maintain safe workplaces, continuously monitor site conditions, reduce risks at source ALARP)*
- *The legislation is preventive by design. It is not only concerned with reacting to accidents but with identifying dangers before harm occurs.*
- • Near- misses show where controls are weak
- *E.g. a worker slipping but not falling, tools falling from height without striking anyone. Such events show failures in controls such as housekeeping, guarding (ex. toe boards in scaffolds)*
- *Near misses provide early warning signs, allowing corrective action before incidents happen*

Confined Space Definition as per S.L. 646.19

"confined space" means an enclosed space which has limited openings for entry or egress, and, or which may contain insufficient levels of oxygen or contain or produce dangerous air contaminants liable to cause a risk to the health and safety of workers who enter such a space, and includes any room, chamber, booth, tunnel, tank, silo, vat, pit, pipe, drain, sewer or flue and any other enclosed space:

Provided that for the purposes of these regulations, any enclosed space which is liable to be flooded or filled by the inflow of any liquid or solid material shall also be considered a confined space;



Health Surveillance for Confined Spaces

- Only workers who have undergone health surveillance and certified medically fit to enter and work in a Confined Space.
- Medical conditions for which a person may not be certified fit to enter and work in a confined space.
- A history of fainting, black-outs or bouts of loss of consciousness, including a history of epilepsy or uncontrolled diabetes mellitus
- A history of shortness of breath
- Disabilities related to limited dexterity or mobility, whether temporary or permanent
- A history of mental disease or of any other relevant mental condition
- A history of heart disease or high blood pressure
- Severe disabilities related to hearing or vision
- A history of drug or alcohol abuse, or when a worker is taking medication liable to cause drowsiness, lack of co-ordination, slowing of reflexes or response times or disorientation
- Any other serious medical condition which in the opinion of the medical practitioner carrying out the examination should preclude a worker from being certified fit to enter or to work in a confined space.

What Is a Hazardous Substance?

- Any Chemical that can harm health which they come into various matters:
 - Solid
 - Liquid
 - Gas
 - Vapour
 - Dust
 - Fume

What is a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)?

- A Safety Data Sheet (formerly called Material Safety Data Sheet) is a detailed informational document prepared by the manufacturer or importer of a hazardous chemical. It describes the physical and chemical properties of the product.
- A SDS tells workers and employers:
 - What the substance is
 - What dangers it presents
 - How to work with it safely
 - What to do in an emergency
- Think of it as the instruction manual for chemical safety



Why COSHH Regulation & SDS are Important?

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations
 - To prevent or adequately control exposure to hazardous materials to workers' health.
 - It applies to chemicals, dust, and biological agents
- SDSs are essential because they:
 - Support risk assessments and COSHH/Chemical Agent assessments
 - Provide emergency response guidance
 - Ensure legal compliance
 - Support training and supervision
 - Provides valuable information to employer and employees
- In safety terms, an SDS is an **information control measure**.



Contents of SDS

- The sections of the SDS:
 - 1. Identification
 - 2. Hazard Identification
 - 3. Composition/ Information on Ingredients
 - 4. First aid Measures
 - 5. Fire Fighting Measures
 - 6. Accidental Release Measures
 - 7. Handling and storage
 - 8. Exposure Controls/ PPE
 - 9. Physical and chemical properties
 - 10. Stability and reactivity
 - 11. Toxicological information
 - 12. Ecological information
 - 13. Disposal Consideration
 - 14. Transport Information
 - 15. Regulatory information
 - 16. Other information

GHS Pictograms



Explosives



Flammables



Oxidisers



Gases Under Pressure



Corrosives



Acute Toxicity



Irritants/Sensitisers/Other Hazards



Specific Toxicity Hazards



Environmental Hazard

Different types of Asbestos



Notification (Asbestos)

- All works involving asbestos may only commence once the authority has been duly notified by the employer.
- Notification is to include;
 - Location of worksite, type and quantity of asbestos, activity and procedure, number of workers, start date and duration of work, protective measures to be taken. Workers are to be notified of this information. If the asbestos dust exposure is likely to increase or there is a change in working conditions a new notification is to be submitted.
- Removal of Asbestos Eform:
<https://www.ohsa.mt/eforms/asbestos>

What is Bitumen

- Bitumen is natural, not a residue of petroleum refining
- Used as a binding agent
- A blend of various chemical compounds (over 10,000) whose precise composition is impossible to list.
- Compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- Exposure • respiratory, through inhalation of emissions
cutaneous, through direct contact with the products,
substance clothing residues settling on the skin or
possibly through



Actions To Reduce the Risks (Bitumen)

- Reduce exposure level (avoid contact to skin, eyes and inhalation)
- Provide forced ventilation in confined areas (garages, tunnels)
- Use PPE
- Good hygiene (change clothes, wash hands, shower)
- Avoid smoking
- A suitable risk assessment
- Health Surveillance

- Assignment Deadline: 30th April 2026

Presentations Session 01	5 March 2026	17:30 to 20:30hrs
Self Assessment Session 02	9 March 2026	17:30 to 18:30hrs
Presentations Session 02	12 March 2026	17:30 to 20:30hrs

