



Inspection campaign

From 1 October to November 2009 WorkSafe inspectors will be undertaking an enforcement campaign to improve safety in tilt-up construction. WorkSafe will visit tilt-up construction sites and inspect that all work on the site, including tilt-up and general construction is being carried out in accordance to Western Australian occupational safety and health laws.

This newsletter has been developed to identify safety issues in your industry and to assist you in meeting the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations.

Training Tilt-up construction

The Occupational Safety and Health Regulations require the following training to be completed:

- **CPCCCM1007A Carry out tilt-up work safely**

Before entering a tilt-up work site, anyone involved in tilt-up or precast concrete construction must have completed the WorkSafe approved training from the construction training package, CPCCCM1007A *Carry out tilt-up work safely*, in addition to the general construction induction training.

People who have already done *Contribute to safe tilt up construction* do not need to do the new course.

- **CPCCBBC4022A Supervise tilt-up work**

People who commenced directly supervising tilt-up work after January 2009 must complete the WorkSafe approved training from the construction training package CPCCBBC4022A *Supervise tilt-up work*. If the unit cannot be completed prior to commencing supervising, the supervisor/manager must have done either:

- CPCCCM1007A *Carry out tilt-up work safely*, or
- *Contribute to safe tilt up construction*

and must undertake the supervisory unit as soon as is practicable after commencement.

People who commenced directly supervising tilt-up work prior to January 2009 and have already completed *Contribute to safe tilt up construction* are not required to do *Supervise tilt-up work*

Please note in March this year WorkSafe successfully prosecuted two companies for not providing training (see below), with additional cases being progressed.

To find a registered training organisation go to the National Training Information Service website <http://www.ntis.gov.au>

Company fined \$40,000 over untrained workers

In March 2009 Hanssen Pty Ltd was fined \$40,000 for failing to ensure that tilt-up construction workers had completed approved courses.

WorkSafe inspectors attended a construction site in East Perth in response to a report that a tilt-up panel had collapsed at the site. Over three visits inspectors discovered that a number of workers performing tilt-up work had not completed an approved tilt-up training course.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said that the case illustrated that training requirements could not be ignored.

Tilt-up must meet these requirements

During the campaign inspectors will be visiting tilt-up construction sites to see the tilt-up work meets the requirements outlined in the following publications

- Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984
- Occupational Safety and Health Regulation 3.88 A – J
- Australian Standard AS/NZS 3850 – 2003 parts

Further guidance

Code of practice Tilt-up and precast concrete construction
For more information go to www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

Code of practice-Tilt-up and precast concrete construction

The Commission for Occupational Safety and Health has endorsed the National Code of Practice for *Precast, Tilt-up and Concrete Elements in Building Construction*.

This code is based on the existing WA code and has been approved by the State Government to ensure consistency with other States. It replaces the WA code in February 2010.

There are minor differences between the two codes. The National code incorporates the national construction standard and the national licensing standard, which have both been adopted in WA, so OSH regulations relating to tilt-up will not need to change. Like the WA code, the National code provides practical advice about the safe design, manufacture, transport, crange, storage, erection and stabilisation of concrete panel walls and other precast concrete elements.

For more information go to www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au and type national code of practice tilt up into the search box. Alternatively, view the WA code on www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

Each person involved in tilt-up work must have undergone tilt-up training and construction induction training. Doggers and riggers must also have a current licence or certificate of competency.

Regular updates on OSH

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New regulations for construction were introduced in 2008, requiring construction sites, amongst other things, to develop safe work method statements. WorkSafe is now enforcing the new regulations.

What information must be included in a safe work method statement (JSA) for 'high-risk construction work'?

Safe work method statements (also known as Job Safety Analyses or JSAs) for 'high-risk construction work' must, as far as practicable, set out:

- each high-risk construction work activity that either is or includes a hazard to which a person is likely to be exposed;
- the risk of injury or harm arising from those hazards;
- the safety measures to be implemented to reduce the risk(s), including the control measures to be applied;
- a description of the equipment used in the work activity; and
- any qualifications and/or training required to enable people to do the work safely.

The safe work method statements must be given to the main contractor before the 'high-risk construction work' starts at the site, and must be kept up to date as the project progresses.

Changes to the 'blue card'

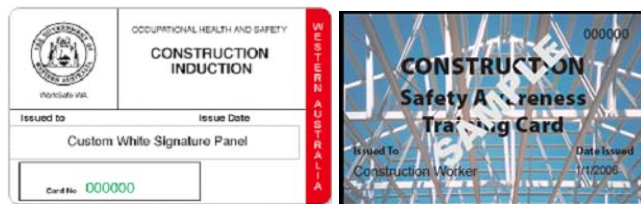
In 2007 WorkSafe introduced induction training for construction workers which allowed blue card holders to work on any construction site.

Recently the WorkSafe Western Australia Commission for Occupational Safety and Health has recognised the construction industry induction training conducted in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland as meeting the requirements of the WA regulations. These three States deliver nationally recognised induction training, similar to the course in WA.

This means that workers coming from those States do not need to repeat the WA course to be able to work in construction, provided they can show evidence that they completed the induction card in their home state.

WorkSafe is changing the design of construction induction cards from 'blue' to 'white' as a result of harmonisation of training across all States and Territories.

Across all States and Territories, including here in WA, both types of cards are accepted by the regulatory authority as evidence that induction training has been completed.



Testing and tagging portable electrical equipment and RCDs at workplaces

On 1 January 2009, changes to occupational safety and health regulations will come into effect that allow the testing and tagging of portable electrical equipment and portable RCD's on construction and demolition sites to be undertaken by a competent person or a licensed electrician. For detailed information undertaking competency based training in testing and tagging contact

- College of Electrical Training phone 08 9417 8166
- Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers 08 9478 1642
- Frontline Safety (Bunbury) 08 9791 1961

What do the new laws require?

The new laws introduce the following requirements:

- People identified by the main contractor as having day-to-day on-site control of 'high-risk construction work' must, as far as practicable, provide the main contractor with a written safe work method statement (also known as a Job Safety Analysis, or JSA) for all 'high-risk construction work' they manage or control at the site. If the main contractor cannot identify anyone with day-to-day on-site control of 'high-risk construction work' to prepare the necessary safe work method statement(s), then the main contractor must prepare the statement(s). The main contractor must ensure that there are measures in place to ensure, as far as practicable, that all 'high-risk construction work' done at the site is carried out in accordance with the relevant safe work method statement(s).
- Clients commissioning design and/or construction work as part of a trade or business (referred to in the new regulations as 'commercial clients') must consult with the designer and the main contractor to ensure, as far as practicable, that the construction work can be done without risk to safety and health.
- Designers must provide their 'commercial clients' with a written report on the occupational safety and health aspects of their designs. 'Commercial clients' must ensure, as far as practicable, that this information, together with any other occupational safety and health information they may receive regarding the construction project, is passed on to the main contractor and to anyone who obtains the end product of the construction work from the client.
- Main contractors must ensure, as far as practicable, that information in their control that relates to the hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control processes for a construction project is compiled, recorded and kept until the construction work is complete.
- Main contractors must ensure that a site-specific Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan is prepared for each construction site where five or more people are working, or are likely to be working, at the same time. The plan must be prepared before work starts at the construction site and must be kept up to date as the project progresses. Each person doing construction work at the site must be made aware of the plan and how it applies to their work.

What issues will we be looking at?

When an inspector visits your workplace they will be not only be focusing on safe work practices in tilt-up work but will also be conducting a general site inspection.

The following checklists may assist you in assessing your workplace as they have been identified as priority high risk areas.

- Tilt-up panel
- Electricity
- Working at heights
- Slips and trips

Checklists

Tilt-up panel safety checklist			
Tilt-up check	yes	no	n/a
Has the Commissioner been given notice of intension to manufacture concrete panels?			
Has the manufacture of concrete panels been done in accordance with standard? (ref AS3850 sections 2,3,4,& 4.10)			
Has the transport, crantage, storage and erection of concrete panels at construction site been done in accordance with the standard? (Ref AS3850 Section 5)			
Is the temporary bracing of concrete panels at the construction site in accordance with standard? (ref AS3850 section 6)			
Has the incorporation of concrete panels into final structure been done in accordance with standard? (ref AS3850 section 7)			
Tilt-up work at construction sites not to be done unless notification of intention to manufacture panels has been given.			
Is the required documentation at the construction site where tilt-up work is done?			
Is there limited entry to areas of construction sites where tilt-up work being done?			
Have persons who are involved in the tilt-up work, completed the required training and hold the certificates?			
Is there a Safety Management Plan for the site?			
Is there a safe work method statement available for all high risk construction work being undertaken at the site?			
Is crane operator licensed and hold a tilt-up training certificate?			
Has operator conducted pre start checks?			
Are maintenance records and operators manual kept on the crane?			
Is the crane been operated in accordance with the operator's manual?			

Electricity safety checklist			
check	yes	no	n/a
Electrical safety is part of induction			
People working with electricity have been given information, instruction and training			
Portable electrical equipment is protected by RCDs			
The RCD device is labelled and has been tested			
Flexible cord connections have either moulded or transparent type plugs			
Plugs, sockets and extension leads are in good condition			
Flexible cords are protected from water, being damaged or cut			
Switchboards are labelled correctly and protected from damage			
Safety procedures are in place for workers working near overhead power lines			
Site power been connected when construction site work has reached plate height			
Cords are of suitable length for the intended use			
Portable cable stands are used when required			
Portable electrical equipment has been tagged			
There is a record of previous testing			
No aerial cables are fixed or attached to scaffolding			

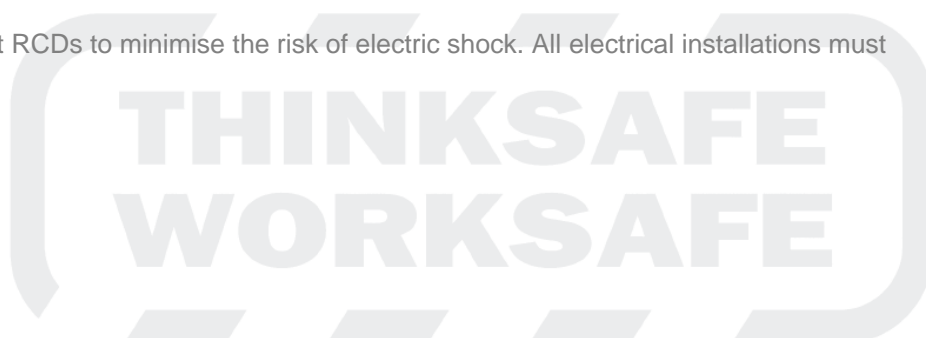
Electricity

Electrical hazards exist in almost every workplace. It is not only high voltage that causes electrocution – the smallest mistake can be fatal.

People can be electrocuted by coming into contact with overhead wires, carrying out maintenance work on live electrical circuits, working with damaged electrical equipment, extension cords, plugs or sockets. Familiar appliances like toasters and microwave ovens also cause a significant number of electrical burns.

A WorkSafe study found that, with the exception of deaths caused by overhead power-lines, many electrocutions could have been prevented with the use of residual current devices (RCD).

Safety regulations require employers to fit RCDs to minimise the risk of electric shock. All electrical installations must meet Australian Standards.



Working at heights safety checklist			
check	yes	no	n/a
Where relevant, working at heights is part of induction			
People working at heights have been given information, instruction and training			
Workers are supervised to ensure that safe work practices are in place			
Work areas are clear of protruding objects, water, vehicles and people			
Hand rails on stairs are secure and steps are well maintained			
All work areas are free from obstructions			
Walkways, corridors and stairs are free from obstructions			
Ladders are in good condition and are secure and fixed firmly in place			
High ladders have fall-back protection			
Mechanical lifts are safe			
Mezzanine floors have safe access and fall protection, such as handrails			
Fall arrest systems, such as harnesses, are in place			
Safer, alternative ways to do the work have been considered			
Potential existing hazards have been identified			
The risks of anyone falling from heights have been assessed			
Practical steps have been taken to prevent falls			

Working at heights

In Western Australia, an average of two workers die each year after falling. Most of these falls occur from relatively low heights ie. less than 5 metres. A further 5 people are killed by falling objects. Many more suffered serious injuries.

Employees falling from ladders, stairs or scaffolding are typical accidents and the most common types of injuries are sprains and strains, fractures and bruising.

**THINKSAFE
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Slips and trips safety checklist			
check	yes	no	n/a
Training in slips and trips is part of induction			
Information, instruction and training on slip, trip and fall hazards has been provided			
Walkways are free of hazards, such as electrical leads and hoses			
There is a “clean as you go” policy to ensure spills are attended to immediately			
Floor surfaces are maintained and in good condition			
Warning signs are erected near spills			
Pathway accesses to and from work areas are kept free of obstacles			
Guard rails or other safety guards are provided on ramps and stairs			
There is adequate lighting			
Appropriate personal protective clothing, such as slip resistant footwear, is provided			
There are ramps in areas where the height of floor levels change and trolley access is required or where items are carried regularly			
Significant hazards have been identified and assessed			
The assessments have evaluated all the factors that affect the risk			
All practicable control measures been implemented and maintained to eliminate or reduce risk			
All slips, trips and falls-related incidents been adequately investigated and all controls reviewed after incidents occur			

Slips and trips

Slips, trips and falls are a significant problem affecting every workplace, from factory floor to office. People who work near wet floors or concrete surfaces face the greatest risk of suffering an injury from slipping or tripping.

Factors that contribute to the risk of slips and trips include:

- unstable, loose, or uneven floor surfaces;
- obstacles blocking walkways;
- slippery floor surfaces from spilt substances, eg. fluid, mud or oil;
- types of flooring or surface texture, such as wood, concrete or vinyl;
- inadequate lighting; and/or
- inadequate footwear.