

# PRACTICE UPDATE

## Construction Work

### Scope

Practical guidance for Curtin University and principal contractors on how to manage health and safety risks associated with construction work.

### Definition

Construction work is any work in connection to the construction, alteration, conversion, fitting-out, commissioning, renovation, repair, maintenance, refurbishment, demolition, decommissioning or dismantling of a structure. Construction work includes excavation, and other preparatory works.

A structure includes anything that is constructed, whether it is temporary, fixed or moveable. Extending beyond buildings and towers, this definition includes roads/paths, foundations and form work, retention works (such as bunds and river works) and ships or submarines.

### Key Information

- Work must be identified if high-risk under WHS General regulations 2022 r.291 classification
- If 5 or more people are working together – or likely to be – the works are considered a construction project and require a specific WHS plan
- Workers must receive relevant information, training, instruction, and supervision to protect from them from health and safety risks. Workers should attend workplace specific induction training such as toolbox talks and pre-start meetings.
- Consultation with workers is essential to identify hazards and must be documented in the WHS Management

### Actions

- Prepare a WHS management plan prior to commencement
- Prepare a SWMS for high-risk work before any construction work starts in consultation with all PCBUs involved. Once work commences, the SWMS must be reviewed to ensure it remains relevant to the hazards and risks present at the time of the works.
- Ensure that all workers on the construction have completed the general construction training (white card) and have their card available for inspection.
- Secure the workplace from unauthorised access
- Provide PPE, adequate facilities, first aid resources and training commensurate to the risks identified.



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## References

For more detailed information and requirements please refer to:

[Code of Practice - Construction Work](#)

[Work Health and Safety \(General\) Regulations 2022](#)

## Who do you call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or email

[healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au](mailto:healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au).

## Date of Issue

1/12/2022