

CONSTRUCTION

Erection of Fencing

This information bulletin outlines minimum requirements for the fencing of construction work, based on the extent to which public contact with the work and its immediate vicinity is likely. It does not cover all possible circumstances but will provide guidance for most situations.

Workplace Health and Safety Regulations

"Construction work" means construction, digging, filling, erection, installation, addition to, alteration, forming up, repair, maintenance, cleaning, painting, renewal, removal, dismantling or demolition of a building, structure or excavation.

Access and egress

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that all persons on the construction site are provided with safe access to, and egress from, all places where they may be required to work or pass. This includes the provision of emergency access and egress routes that must be kept free of obstructions.

Public Access

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that members of the public are not exposed to health and safety risks arising from the construction work. They must ensure that:

- (a) adequate perimeter fencing is installed on the construction site before construction work commences, and that it is maintained during the construction work; and
- (b) signs are placed on each construction site, clearly visible from outside the site, stating the names and contact telephone numbers of the persons with control of the construction work, including an after-hours emergency telephone number.

Adequate perimeter fencing applies to all construction sites where a risk assessment identifies the need to isolate particular site hazards and the only way of achieving this is with perimeter fencing.

A contractor undertaking construction work has an obligation under the Workplace Health and Safety legislation to ensure that the public and workers are protected from hazards associated with the work. Fencing around construction sites is a safety measure to protect the public and can help in the prevention of vandalism.

The use of solid fence panels can help to reduce the noise nuisance to local residents.

For general construction work, the appropriate level of fencing shall be erected **before** the commencement of work. For excavations, a fence shall be erected before an excavation is left unattended.

Fence Types

The following information outlines the type of fencing necessary when the risk assessment identifies the requirement for fencing:

High density public areas

Approved prefabricated modular type temporary fencing at least 1800mm high, fitted with 7mm or 9mm thick ply panelling to ground level, securely anchored and fitted with inwardly opening lockable gate. Warning signage to be attached and if/when lighting is required, it is to be provided.

Elsewhere (excluding cottage industry, excavations and demolition sites)

Approved prefabricated modular type temporary fencing at least 1800mm high.

Cottage industry

Permanent fencing at back and both sides and approved prefabrication modular type temporary fencing at least 1800mm high across the frontage OR approved prefabrication modular type temporary fencing at least 1800mm high and completely around the site perimeter.

Excavations

Approved prefabrication modular type temporary fencing at least 1800mm high. If the ground is undulating, security infill must be used.

Demolition sites

Fencing of demolition sites shall be in accordance with Australian Standard [AS 2601-2001](#): Demolition of Structures, unless otherwise approved by NT WorkSafe.

Other requirements

If fencing is erected in areas where the public normally has access during periods of low visibility or darkness, or in areas of high through traffic, then appropriate warning of the structure, such as lighting and signs, will be required.

The following material is **NOT** acceptable for use in fencing construction work for the purposes of public protection: barbwire; single strand; wire alone (visual and tactile problems); plastic bunting, webbing fences; and chicken or bird wire.

Where the distance from a public place to the building being erected is such that there is the likelihood of falling material striking pedestrian or vehicular traffic, a gantry will be required.

For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or go to worksafe.nt.gov.au