Construction – **Residential**

National Standard for Construction Work >

– general health and safety provisions

This information bulletin provides guidance to house builders on meeting the requirements of the National Standard for Construction Work in regard to general health and safety provisions.

Existing services

Before the commencement of construction work, a person with control of a construction project must ensure existing services at the construction site are identified and the condition of and risks posed by these services are assessed. This assessment must identify:

(a) the type of existing services;

(b) the location of the services and whether they are underground, overhead or contained within a structure;

(c) the extent of the services, and

(d) the risks the services present, including the risks of electric shock, fire, explosion and an inrush of water.

If contact with an existing service poses a risk to the health and safety of any person, all persons with control of the construction project or control of construction work must ensure the existing service is removed or disconnected, or otherwise isolated from the work to be carried out, so that contact with the service will be prevented.

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe information bulletin 05.01.02 – Working close to overhead powerlines.

Traffic control

If pedestrian, traffic or plant movements at or near a construction site are affected by construction work, the person with control of the construction project must ensure that these movements are safely managed so as to eliminate or otherwise control any associated health and safety risks.

Lighting

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that the level of lighting provided in any area where a person performs construction work or may be required to pass through, including access ways and emergency exits, permits this work or passage without risk to health or safety.

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. Without limiting the generality of this requirement, 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. This applies to construction sites for single dwelling houses and duplexes, and civil engineering projects and maintenance work sites, when a risk assessment identifies the need to isolate particular site hazards and the only way of achieving this is with perimeter fencing.

(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.

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe information bulletin 03.01.05 – Erection of fencing.

Emergency procedures

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that:

(a) in the event of danger it is possible for workers to evacuate all work areas quickly and safely;

(b) where appropriate, specific emergency exits, routes and plans are displayed at appropriate locations on the construction site;

(c) arrangements are in place for rescuing any injured persons; and

(d) where indicated by the risk assessment, emergency evacuation procedures are practised at regular intervals and any difficulties identified and resolved.

First-aid and medical attention

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that there are arrangements for first aid to be accessible when construction work is being undertaken.

First aid, including the provision of trained personnel where appropriate, must be adequate for the initial treatment of injuries and illnesses that may arise.

Note: The first aid provided on a construction site should take account of the number of persons working on the site at any one time that may be subject to injury in the event of an accident.

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe publication, a Guide to First Aid in the Workplace.

Electricity supply

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that electrical installations, material, equipment and apparatus are designed, constructed, installed, protected, used, maintained and tested to eliminate the risk of electrical shock, burns, fire or explosion.

Note: On construction sites the power supply is often through temporary supply boards and power lines, which in a constantly changing environment can easily suffer damage. The use of a residual current device can reduce the risk of electric shock in these circumstances.

AS3012-2003 Electrical Installations – Construction and Demolition Sites sets out specific requirements for temporary power supplies on construction sites.

AS/NZS 61008.1 2004 and AS/NZS 61009.1 set out requirements for residual current devices (RCDs).

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe information bulletins

05 01 01 Residual current devices (RCDs)

05.02.01 Requirements for construction work

05.02.02 Safety inspection & testing of electrical equipment on construction sites

Housekeeping

A person with control of a construction project must ensure that the construction site is kept orderly and tidy.

Without limiting the generality of clause 8.12, the person with control of the construction project must ensure that:

(a) access ways are kept clear of material and debris and maintained in a non-slippery condition;

(b) general safety signs are erected, as appropriate, and kept in good condition;

(c) there is a safe system for collecting, storing and disposing of excess or waste material at the construction site;

(d) plant is safely secured when not in use; and

(e) material at or near a construction site is moved and stored in a safe and orderly manner so that it does not pose a risk to the health or safety of any person.

Exposure to the elements

A person with control of a construction project must ensure the safety of persons undertaking construction work where there is any risk to their health or safety arising from exposure to adverse weather conditions, including heat, cold, and ultra-violet radiation.

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe information bulletins

15.03.02 Outdoor environment - heat stress

15.03.03 Outdoor environment - protection from the sun

Amenities

Builders must provide or have access to, adequate amenities for housing construction sites to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees and others using their sites. The amenities provided by the builder must be adequate, accessible and timely.

They include a supply of drinkable water is available at a workplace for use by a worker and sanitary, washing, changing, rest and eating amenities and facilities at a workplace where the health and safety of a worker is at risk if such facilities are not provided; and

Builders must ensure that the amenities and facilities provided are maintained in a clean condition at all times

For more information please refer to NT WorkSafe information bulletin 03.02.04 Amenities on housing sites.

NT WorkSafe >

GPO Box 1722
Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: 1800 019 115
Facsimile: (08) 8999 5141
Email: ntworksafe@nt.gov.au
Website: www.worksafe.nt.gov.au