

Field Inspection Safety Requirements

Permit requirements for New, Renovated and Repairs to decks

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an outline for minimum site safety standards that are to be provided by the owner and or contractor and to when a site inspection can be refused by the Building Official for unsafe conditions.

Background

There have been many occasions where occupational safety has been compromised for Building Officials performing on-site reviews. Hazards such as deep excavations, messy work areas, and open pits or stairways have led to potential safety hazards for City staff. There also have been instances where City staff have been exposed to hazardous conditions such as asbestos, excessive dust or unsafe use of equipment.

Implementation

Owners and Contractors shall adhere to the General Responsibilities for Safety & Health as administered under WorkSafe BC.

See WorkSafe link: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-03-rights-and-responsibilities>

If a potential hazard exists, the Building Official shall either request that the activity or situation be corrected immediately to perform the review or refuse to perform inspections until such a time it can be shown it is safe to perform duties.

Some examples are:

- The job site is messy and has tripping hazards, poorly lit, unsecured stored material, exposed vertical rebar, and high levels of dust
- Excavations over 1.2m in depth & not back-sloped, shored or reviewed by a geotechnical engineer
- Improper construction of stairs/guards, ramps or platforms
- Openings in floors or roofs not secured/marked or protected by guards
- Unsafe storage of flammable liquids or use of machinery
- Exposed live electrical
- Overhead work such as roofing
- Renovation or demolition work that could potentially expose Building Officials to Hazardous Materials may require a hazard assessment and abatement to be completed prior to entry by the Building Official

Have questions? We're here to help. Please contact the Building Department at 250-490-2571 or buildinginfo@penticton.ca for more information.

Please note: Building Bulletins are prepared to provide convenient information for customers, and should not be considered a replacement for reviewing the bylaw or associated legal documents. If there is any contradiction between this guide and relevant municipal bylaws and/or applicable codes, please refer to the bylaws and/or codes for legal authority.