## What is high-risk construction work?

The following types of work are high-risk construction work –

*Construction work where there is a risk of a person falling more than 2 metres*

Example

* Installing guttering on a double-storey building
* Retiling a roof
* Constructing a balcony
* Installing an evaporative cooler on a roof

*Construction work involving demolition*

Example

* Knocking down walls as part of a warehouse conversion
* Demolishing a shed or garage
* Knocking down a load bearing wall in a house

*Construction work involving the removal or likely disturbance of asbestos*

Example

* Removing floor tiles containing asbestos as part of a building refurbishment
* Cutting or drilling into an asbestos cement sheet wall
* Removing cement sheet eaves
* Removing mastic containing asbestos from window seals

*Construction work involving structural alterations where some sort of temporary support must be used to prevent the structure from collapsing*

Example

* Using props to support a ceiling where a load-bearing wall has been removed
* Temporary bracing of a wall

*Construction work involving a confined space*

A confined space is any space in an enclosed or partially enclosed structure which –

* may be entered by anyone,
* is difficult to get into or out of,
* is (or should be) at normal atmospheric pressure while someone is in it, and
* contains (or could contain) a contaminated atmosphere, an unsafe level of oxygen, or a substance that could bury a person in the space.

Example

* Connecting a new sewer to an existing sewer main in a 3 metre trench

*Construction work involving excavation deeper than 1.5 metres*

Examples

* Digging a 2-metre trench for laying pipes and conduits
* Testing drainage pipelines in a 1.5 m trench
* Excavating a pit for an inground swimming pool
* Digging a shaft deeper than 1.5 m for a foundation

*Construction work involving the use of explosives*

Examples

* Breaking up rock during construction of foundations
* Using explosive power tools or EPT (aka powder actuated tool or PAT)
* Blasting in preparation for the construction of a building or road

*Construction work on or near –*

* *pressurised gas distribution mains or piping*
* *chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines*
* *electrical installations or services*

‘Near’ means close enough that there is a risk of hitting or puncturing the mains, piping, electrical installation or service.

High-risk construction work is not limited to the electrical safety ‘no-go zones’.

Electrical installations do not include power leads and electrically powered tools.

Example

* Working near overhead or underground power lines
* Construction work that involves drilling into a wall where live electrical wiring my be present
* Excavating near a gas pipe line

*Construction work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere*

Examples

* Cutting tiles, bricks, etc where silica dust is released
* Grinding concrete where silica dust is released
* Cutting wood where fine wood dust is released
* Sanding/finishing hardwood flooring
* Sanding down old paint that contains lead
* Welding activities that produce metal fumes
* Laying vinyl tiles or carpet with a volatile hazardous adhesive
* Demolishing a petrol station and removing old tanks
* Decommissioning plant and removing pipework which may contain hazardous substances

*Construction work involving tilt-up or precast concrete*

Examples

* Building housing units using precast concrete panels
* Building a factory using tilt-up panels
* Installing a pre-cast drainage pit

*Construction work on or next to roads or railways*

Examples

* Breaking up and replacing a footpath or driveway
* Building a pedestrian bridge over a suburban rail line

*Construction work at a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant*

Example

* Working on a construction site where equipment such as scissor lifts, boom lifts, skid steer loaders, telehandlers, earthmoving equipment such as backhoes or bobcats, cranes or trucks is being used

*Construction work in an area where there are artificial extremes of temperature*

Examples

* Installing a racking system in an operating coolroom or freezer
* Doing construction work close to a boiler

*Construction work in, over or near water or other liquids if there is a risk that someone may drown*

Examples

* Building a gazebo next to a swimming pool
* Building an extension next to a swimming pool
* Constructing a bridge over a river
* Restoring a wharf

*Construction work involving diving*

Example

* Divers undertaking structural repairs to a jetty, pier or marina

*Construction work involving a tunnel*

Example

* Building a tunnel in the course of constructing an underground railway or road

*Construction work on telecommunications towers*

Example

* Installing a microlink on a telecommunications tower