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**CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY,  
AND INJURY PREVENTION**  
**Prevent hazards associated with  
excavation and traffic control on  
construction sites**

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<b>level:</b>	4
<b>credit:</b>	4
<b>planned review date:</b>	December 2003
<b>sub-field:</b>	Construction
<b>purpose:</b>	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify different types of excavation for building and construction sites and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation; identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of excavation hazards; and identify the type of Traffic Control needed at building and construction sites and apply procedures to maintain controls of hazards for compliance with the site safety plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation.</p> <p>This unit standard is for people who wish to act as Safety Supervisors or become involved in health and safety and injury prevention over a wide range of building and construction activities and environments.</p>
<b>entry information:</b>	Open.
<b>accreditation option:</b>	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.
<b>moderation option:</b>	A centrally established national moderation system has been set up by the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation.

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**special notes:**

- 1 *Compliance* is required with the hierarchy of controls outlined in the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), i.e: elimination of significant hazards, isolation of significant hazards when elimination is not practicable, and minimisation of significant hazards where elimination and isolation are not practicable.
- 2 *All practical steps* means all steps to achieve the result that it is reasonably practicable to take in the circumstances, having due regard to: nature and severity of the harm; current state of knowledge about that harm; current state of knowledge about the means available to achieve the result; and availability and cost of each of those means.
- 3 *Hazards* refer to those occurrences, processes, substances or situations as determined by the supervisor that are an actual or potential cause or source of harm associated with, but not limited to: process, activities, environment, equipment, materials, work organisation, site and facilities. Contributing factors may include noise, vibration, temperature, pressure and mechanical, ergonomic stressors, chemical agents.
- 4 *Codes of Practice* refer to any issued code of practice approved by the Minister of Labour under Section 20 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), and any work carried out in accordance with that code.
- 5 *Standards* refer to any New Zealand or other Standards that provide technical guidance and specifications. Standards may also be specified in Regulations.

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- 6 *Guidelines* refer to any information on health and safety produced by the Occupation Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour or Accident Compensation Corporation for the provision of health, safety and injury prevention in the building and construction industry. The guidelines are referenced to Regulations, situations or hazards, and may be based on relevant sections of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, Standards contained in former legislation, or accepted good practice and supportive information.  
Specific publication – Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in the Construction Industry issued April 1996 by the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour.
- 7 *Legislation* relevant to this unit standard includes, but is not limited to: the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and Health and Safety in Employment Act Regulations 1995, specifically, the definitions referring to Construction Work and Notifiable Work; Human Rights Act 1993; Privacy Act 1993; Local Government Act 1974; Resource Management Act 1991; Building Act 1991.
- 8 *Safety Supervisor* is defined as a person recognised as a health and safety practitioner pertaining to the building and construction industry or trades.
- 9 *Organisation* may refer to any business engaging, controlling, or employing people in a building and construction environment.

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- 10 *Site Safety Plan* is defined as a building and construction site specific document that demonstrates an organisation's means of compliance with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and includes but is not limited to the following:
- assignment of responsibilities for on site implementation;
  - hazard identification methods;
  - accident investigation and report methods;
  - site emergency procedures;
  - site communication strategy;
  - strategy for the coordination of on site trade activities;
  - site audit procedures.
- 11 Specific publications: Approved Code of Practice for Excavation and Shafts for Foundations issued September 1995; Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in the Construction Industry issued April 1996; issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour, and Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management SP/M/010 2000 issued by Transit New Zealand.
- 12 This unit standard requires assessment in a practical work situation, on site. *On site* refers to a wide range of building and construction environments within which trade skills are required.

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## **Elements and Performance Criteria**

### **element 1**

Identify different types of excavation for building and construction sites and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation.

Range: types of excavation include but are not limited to - trenches, open excavations, demolitions, shafts, and tunnels or drives less than 15 metres in length.

### **performance criteria**

1.1 Hazards are identified in terms of each type of excavation work to identify the controls required for health and safety compliance.

Range: hazard factors include but are not limited to - stability of the soil, proximity of underground services, presence of water, harmful gases, ventilation, noise, access and egress restrictions, roading, traffic management and control, explosives if used, safety of persons, overhead cables, bearing capacity of ground, cutting and shoring of face, support systems, discharge or disposal of waste.

1.2 Controls required when carrying out excavations are applied to ensure that all practical steps are taken to maintain health and safety compliance.

Range: areas to be considered but not limited to - prior planning, access for employees, separation of traffic, working space, adequate lighting, handling of equipment and supplies.

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**element 2**

Identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of excavation hazards.

**performance criteria**

- 2.1 Identified hazards and related control measures are documented in accordance with the Site Safety Plan.
- 2.2 Excavation work is inspected for compliance against Site Safety Plan, relevant legislation and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE).  
  
Range: inspections daily, weekly, monthly, according to changes in the environment and the nature of the work in progress.
- 2.3 Corrective action is taken to meet provisions of controls required for compliance with health and safety legislation and the site safety plan.
- 2.4 Results of all inspections are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the site safety plan.

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**element 3**

Identify the type of Traffic Control needed at building and construction sites and apply procedures to maintain controls of hazards for compliance with the site safety plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation.

**performance criteria**

- 3.1 Hazards are identified in terms of Traffic Controls associated with different types of excavations and constructions, and controls required are identified for health and safety compliance.

Range: hazard factors include but are not limited to - loading, unloading and operating trucks and mobile plant, power lines, underground services, laid and laying of pipes, ancillary equipment, parking of machinery, pedestrian traffic, footpaths, access and egress control, conspicuous protective clothing and equipment, signposting (conflicting, unnecessary, damaged), lighting, personnel, plant and site safety, night safety, inadequately trained traffic controllers.

- 3.2 Controls required when carrying out Traffic Control procedures are applied to ensure that all practical steps are taken to maintain health and safety compliance.

Range: areas to be considered but not limited to - prior planning, setting out of worksite for safety and traffic control, regulatory signs and safety equipment, traffic controllers, personnel, plant and site safety, tidy work area, storage of materials and supplies.

- 3.3 Traffic Control procedures are inspected for compliance against Site Safety Plan, relevant legislation and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE).

Range: inspection prior to work commencement, continuous according to changes in the environment and the nature of the work in progress.

- 3.4 Corrective action is taken to meet provisions of controls required for compliance with health and safety legislation and the site safety plan.

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- 3.5 Results of all inspections are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the site safety plan.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation [bcitocs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bcitocs@xtra.co.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

**Please Note**

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0048 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.