



Excavations

Only enter excavations when it is safe to do so. Excavations can cause serious injury in the event of collapse.

- A permit to excavate/dig must be in place and approved by the PSCS, before dig commences.
- All excavations must be risk assessed by a competent person. Where entry is required, an inspection must be completed daily and recorded on a AF3.
- Lower risk excavations up to 3m deep, a TWC should, using a design brief, assess the type of temporary works required (proprietary trench support system, battering, stepping of excavation sides etc. as determined by risk assessment). The use of any non-proprietary excavation supports including struts or bracing must be certified by a TWD.
- Higher risk excavations of any depth and all excavations >3m deep, requires a site-specific temporary work design, based on a design brief and certified by a TWD.
- Safe and unobstructed access and egress must be provided at all times.
- Works must only be carried out within trench support, where provided.
- Where there is a risk of persons falling into an excavation it must be fenced or securely covered.
- Protect excavations against unauthorised access, storage of materials, spoil, plant, equipment, and deliveries.

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Stop and Think 'What are the hazards in this scenario?' 'What could go wrong?'

Assess the task, the work area, and the equipment.

Follow the procedures, protocols, and method statement.

Engage with your supervisor if an aspect of the task changes and requires deviation from the plan.



Confined Space

Only trained personnel to enter a confined space. Obtain authorisation before entering

- A confined space permit must be in place and approved by the PSCS, before entry.
- Ensure all operatives have low, medium or high level confined space training as determined by the PSCS risk assessment.
- Atmospheric testing to be completed and recorded before entry into all confined spaces.
- All confined space equipment should be properly maintained, stored in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. Where required, equipment must be certified (GA1), inspected (GA2) and calibrated before use.
- Ensure area is appropriately ventilated.
- A site specific emergency plan must be in place to ensure safe rescue.
- Ensure communication method is established and maintained for all personnel involved throughout the task.

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Work at Height

Work at height is work in any place, including a place at, above or below ground level, where a person could be injured if they fell from that place.

- A work at height permit is required where edge protection cannot be provided, is not viable or needs to be removed. A permit is also required for the use of ladders where 3 points of contact cannot be maintained.
- Ensure work at height activities are planned, organised, and carried out by a competent person.
- Always select the safest work equipment as required and approved by the PSCS, i.e. collective fall protection over individual.
- All work at height plant and equipment must be certified for use (GA1), must be inspected before use and recorded weekly (GA2/GA3).
- A site specific emergency plan should be in place to ensure safe rescue.

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Mobile Plant

Never assume the driver can see you before entering hazardous zones/blind spots.

- Only operate plant when competent and authorised to do so.
- Only SOLAS CSCS experienced operator cards are accepted in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. CPCS or CSR plant cards are NOT accepted)
- Where people and plant interface, ensure segregation is implemented.
- All plant must be certified for use (GA1), must be inspected before use and recorded weekly (GA2).
- All plant being accepted onto an UÉ project must be accepted by using the UÉ Plant Acceptance Form.
- Plant must have the required auxiliary devices, visual aids, lights.
- Seat belts and other safety restraints must be worn.
- Use CSCS banksman trained personnel while excavating and moving plant.
- Driver should stop if they lose sight of the bankmen or if personnel approach the plant. Before entering blind spots get a signal from the driver that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid/limit reversing where possible.
- Where plant is to be driven on live roads, it must be road legal.
- Never use mobile phones while operating plant.

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Lifting Operations

Plan all lifting operations including deliveries.

- Lifting operations must be planned, assessed, appropriately supervised by competent personnel.
- A lift plan must be in place for all lifts.
- Ensure persons involved in lifting operations have the correct training (Authorised Person, Lift Supervisor, Slinger, Crane operator, plant operator etc).
- Lifting equipment must be certified for use (GA1), must be inspected before use and recorded weekly (GA2). Defective equipment must not be used and reported immediately.
- Adequate means of communication such as hand signals, 2 way radio's etc, must be in place.
- Know the Safe Working Load and never exceed it.
- Ensure a dry slew and a test lift is completed on all lifts to verify radius and weights as per the lift plan.
- Exclusion zones must be in place prior to lifting or loading/unloading commencing.
- Loads should not be lifted over people or in the vicinity of overhead power lines. Tag/Guide lines must be used to control/guide loads where necessary.
- Lifting operations must stop in poor weather such as strong winds or lightning based on risk assessment.

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Overhead Services

Never breach the exclusion zone.

- Eliminate the need to work directly under overhead lines – Plan/Design/Diversion/Power outage etc.
- Up to date service/utilities drawings must be available and reviewed prior to work starting.
- An overhead line permit must be approved by the PSCS.
- Plant with restrictors must be used where there is potential to breach the exclusion zone.
- Goal posts, crossing points, bunting and signage must be used to highlight the overhead hazard, this includes in yards and compounds. The appropriate distances of this setup depends on the voltage of the line as outlined in the COP.
- No tipping zone and storage areas must be clearly identified on site.
- Competent Spotters/Banksman to be utilised where required by risk assessment.



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Underground Services

Never assume, or expect, that a cable is not live.

- Eliminate the need to work in the vicinity of underground service – Plan/ Design/ Diversion/ Power outage etc.
- Up to date service/utilities drawings must be available and reviewed prior to work starting.
- A permit to excavate must be approved by the PSCS.
- A calibrated service locating device must be used by a trained CSCS LUGS card holder to scan area and identify the services by marking up on the ground.
- The locator(s) must be used continuously during the excavation works.
- Hand digging method must be implemented within 0.5 meters of known services.
- Use insulated hand tools and dielectric boots when working in an area services are present.
- Services must be protected from damage and supported where necessary. Temporary Works may be required.
- If a cable is encased in concrete, Stop Work and report to the site supervisor.
- Stop work immediately if a strike occurs and report to the site supervisor.

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Electrical Energy

Only qualified persons should work on energy installations. Energy must be isolated.

- Follow appropriate isolation and de-energising procedures for live systems.
- Use lockout/tagout procedures to prevent accidental energisation.
- Ensure only competent personnel are involved in isolating live systems.
- Required permits must be approved by the PSCS.
- Where required, a detailed commissioning plan must be available.
- An inspection and maintenance plan must be in place.
- Ensure appropriate signage, communication, exclusion zones and warning systems are in place.

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Traffic Management

Traffic management is necessary for the safety of workers and road users.

- A site-specific Traffic Management Plan must be in place, and designed by a competent traffic management designer where works are in the roadway.
- All required alterations to the Traffic Management layout must be documented by a competent person in an updated Traffic Management Plan.
- A traffic management risk assessment must take into account any risks identified for all construction activity which may affect the use of the public highways or roadways, including TM set-up and removal.
- Suitable & safe provision of parking, deliveries and storage within the work area should be considered.
- All traffic management on public roads shall be set up, managed, and inspected by suitably trained personnel. TM inspections must be recorded.
- Where works are undertaken within an enclosed site a construction site traffic management plan must be in place to ensure insofar as possible the clear division of pedestrian and machinery/vehicle movements.
- Access for the emergency services should be maintained or arrangements made for during the works.

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- Follow** the procedures, protocols, and method statement.
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This list is non exhaustive and should be followed in addition to the PSCS's standard operating procedure. Further detail can also be found in section 6.5.20 of IW-HSQE-PR029.

