

On University campuses, the protection of our University staff, students, and visitors is our main priority and must be yours too.

All Contractors, employers and workers have Legal Obligations to protect others and members of the general public from the hazards of building or maintenance work.

This Guide supports these legal requirements and provides practical applications at QUT.

Q. Why fence or barricade off your work area or site?

The University is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and students are around at all times of the day.

A perimeter fence or temporary barricade can prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to your work site, where they can be at risk of building or maintenance hazards such as exposed steel reinforcing, trenches, pits, excavations, trip hazards, electrical or chemical sources.

The main people on campus to be concerned in this regard are likely to be adolescent and adult students, University staff and occasionally the children of either group.

While a properly erected fence or barricade and safety signage will not always stop those who are determined to gain access to your work area i.e.: vandals, thieves or just plain ignorant people, it will discourage most people. It may however demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps to meet your legal responsibilities under the WH & S Act.

Q. When should you fence your worksite?

Construction barricades or fences on campus must be erected **before** any work begins on dismantling, building or other site preparation.

Barricades must not be removed or partly dismantled until the area is safe to enter, traverse or occupy.

Q. What type of fence or barricade should you use?

The University campus, buildings and thoroughfares are highly trafficked areas with high volumes of staff or students accessing or passing through most work areas. The situation can be similar to inner city and other demanding business areas. For highly used areas like these, prevention is a priority.

The type of fencing required for a particular work site or area on campus depends on

- the worksite construction or maintenance hazards including the presence of special hazardous substances
- the local environmental conditions – access or pathways, existing walls or fences, stairs, trees or vegetation, weather, working inside or outside
- the expected job length – time to complete project or part of [this alone should not determine fence type]

Other risk factors to consider on campus include worksite location and proximity to:

- campus shops and businesses
- campus amenities eg: ATM's, toilets, lunch or eating areas, parking meters or spaces
- occupied offices or laboratories
- trenches, excavations or service pits,
- University plant or other restricted areas of essential service – power, gas, telecommunications
- nearby or traversing tactile indicator trails for visually impaired persons and
- the likelihood of students or staff being around after hours eg: evening classes, weekend activities.



For defined Construction worksites, contractors should refer directly to the relevant Regulations at [Workplace Health and Safety Qld website](#) for mandatory standards of barricading, hoarding, gantries or other forms of construction site containment.

Safety Barricading and Pedestrian Safety

For minor construction, maintenance or repair jobs

These may pose lower risk consequences eg: repairs to footpaths, open shallow manholes, but temporary fencing or barricading should comprise [as a minimum]

- o portable plastic or metal folding or erected barriers with horizontal guardrails which can withstand reasonable side forces & weather to remain upright – minimum 900 mm high or
- o plastic mesh barriers 900 mm high supported by capped star pickets or other upright structures at maximum spacing of 3 metres or
- o other methods to restrict access to open excavations, trenches or service pits, including use of highly visual barricades – eg: wire fencing /hoarding or orange plastic mesh, with bottom of barricade placed no more than 150 mm from ground level and installed at least 1.5 metres back from edge .
- o where possible, open pits or excavations should be shielded with a sturdy cover that is capable of withstanding all loads likely to be imposed on it.
- o hazard warning signs are placed conspicuously to alert persons of any trip/fall hazards.
- o where a person may fall 1 metre or less in common use areas, edge protection of 900 mm high [minimum] must be erected . It must be able to withstand downwards and outwards force of impact from any person who may fall against it. Edge protection may also include midrails and handrails as the situation demands.



There are specific WH & S Regulations under the WH & S Act, which define the Obligations of Principal Contractors and Relevant Persons who perform construction, maintenance or other service type work. These Regulations require mandatory risk management and prescribe minimum protection measures for hazards such as:

- (a) **Falling objects from heights** or where flying objects could otherwise hit someone during construction work, demolition or erection or dismantling of formwork or scaffolding.

Falling or flying objects include:

- o parts of structures being demolished or built
- o stored or stacked building materials
- o waste or rubbish materials
- o tools or items of plant
- o scaffolding components
- o flying debris or other hazards from welding, grinding or cutting of wood, metal or other

- (b) **Falls into trenches or excavations**

- (c) **Falls from heights**

- (d) **Asbestos or AC sheeting removal**

Definitions:

WH & S Act

Construction work is – (

- a) work to erect, construct, extend, alter, convert, fit-out, commission, renovate, repair, refurbish, disassemble or decommission a structure, or part of a structure; or
- (b) work connected with site preparation, excavation and landscaping for work as above; or
- (c) the assembly or installation of prefabricated components to form a structure, or part of a structure, for work as above or
- (d) the disassembly of prefabricated components for work as above that, immediately before the disassembly, formed a structure or part of a structure; or
- (e) an activity that is a prescribed activity

WH & S Regulations - [Workplace Health and Safety Qld website](#) (as at Dec 2007)

- S 70 - Asbestos removal work
- S 172 - Principal Contractors obligation to erect signs
- S 173 -174 - Principal Contractors obligation about housekeeping practices
- S 175 - Principal Contractors obligation for common plant
- S 176 - Principal Contractors obligation for hazardous substances
- S 177 - Principal Contractors obligation underground services
- S 178 - 179 Principal Contractors obligation for falling objects
 - S 180 - Control measures for civil construction work and housing construction work
 - S 181 - 182 Control measures for construction work that is not civil construction work or housing construction work
 - S 183 - Control measures for demolition work or work erecting or dismantling formwork
 - S 188 - Closure of part or all of adjoining area
- S 190 - Relevant Persons Obligations
- S 191 - Relevant Persons obligation for work method statements

“Witches hats”[traffic cones], chicken or barbwire and single strand wire are not suitable safety fencing materials. Single strand plastic barricade tape should only be used where the risk is very low to general public and the type of work makes it impractical to use other methods. The FM project co-ordinator must authorise its use.