Guidelines for Health and Safety of Workers, Communities and Visitors

Health and safety of workers and the public should be designed into constructions, before and during and after the building phase. It is cheaper and easier to control risks in construction to workers as well as the public before work starts on site by proper planning, training, site induction, worker consultation and incorporating strict safety procedures in construction plans. The proposed project interventions will mostly involve small to medium scale construction sites. As such, extreme dangers posed by working in environments such as great heights, deep water and involving dangerous chemicals and radioactive material will not be present. Potential dangers associated with ESCAMP sites will include falling from moderate heights, vehicle accidents, falling into trenches, drowning, breathing dust and other air pollutants, back aches caused by handling heavy material, wildlife attacks, etc. and can be mitigated with following safety guidelines.

EA/EMP for each site should mandatorily include a risk assessment as to what are the hazards involved in the work site, who might be harmed and how seriously, how likely this harm might happen and what actions are required to eliminate or reduce the risk and incorporate such measures in the EMP and clearly set out in the tender documents. All sub-projects must observe health and safety regulations, hence during implementation it is important to check if these control measures are put in place and are meeting the legal requirement.

Further guidance can be found in the World Bank Group General EHS Guidelines. The following measures have been developed to fit the country context based on the General EHS Guidelines.

Training

• Ensure constructors carry out suitable training programs on occupational health and safety for workers prior to commencement of construction, especially with regard to working in wild territory.
• Ensure only experienced and well trained workers are used for the handling of machinery, equipment and material processing plants
• Ensure all persons, including managers, are trained and able to carry out their work without risk to the safety or health of themselves, other workers or the public

Personal Protective Equipment

• Ensure appropriate safety equipment, tools and protective clothing are provided to workers and that safe working methods are applied. A safety inspection checklist should be prepared taking into consideration what the workers are supposed to be wearing and monitored.
  • Any person who works or operates in an area where there is a risk of flying objects, such as splinters, should wear safety goggles at all time. These should be securely fitted to the face. Welders should protect the entire face from hot sparks and bright rays by using a welding mask.
  • Any person exposed to high levels of dust or hazardous gases (when working in tunnels) should wear respiratory protection in the form of disposal masks or respiratory masks which fit more snugly around the nose and mouth.
  • Any person working in an area where there is the risk of being struck on the head by a falling or flying object should wear a hard hat at all times. These should be well maintained in order to be fully effective, and any helmets or hard hats that are damaged or cracked should immediately be replaced.
• All workers will be required to wear shoes or strong boots to prevent sharp objects from penetrating or crushing the foot. Those working in muddy conditions and in canals with polluted water should avoid hand/foot contact with water and should never wear slippers.

• Road workers should wear reflective vests to avoid being hit by moving vehicular traffic.

Site Delineation and Warning Signs
  • Ensure delineation devices such as cones, lights, tubular markers, orange and white strips and barricades are erected to inform about work zones.
  • Ensure all digging and installing work items that are not accomplished are isolated and warned of by signposts and flash lamps in nighttime (for those sites outside PAs).
  • Ensure dangerous warning signs are raised to inform public of particular dangers and to keep the public away from such hazards, such as warning for bathing when working on river sites and irrigation works.
  • Ensure rehabilitation of trenches progressively once work is completed.
  • The safety inspection checklist must look to see that the delineation devices are used, whether they are appropriately positioned, if they are easily identifiable and whether they are reflective.

Equipment safety
  • Work zone workers use tools, equipment and machinery that could be dangerous if used incorrectly or if the equipment malfunctions Inspections must be carried out to test the equipment before it is used, so that worker safety can be secured. Inspections should look for evidence of wear and tear, frays, missing parts and mechanical or electrical problems.

Material management
  • Ensure easily flammable materials are not be stored in construction site and that they are transported out of project site

Emergency Procedures
  • Ensure an emergency aid service is in place in the work zone.
  • Ensure all site staff is properly briefed as to what to do in the event of an emergency, such as who to notify and where to assemble for a head count. This information must be conveyed to employees by the site manager on the first occasion a worker visits the site.

Construction camps
  • Ensure installation of adequate construction camps and sanitation facilities for construction workers to control of transmission of infectious diseases.
  • Ensure that adequate warning is provided on issues of poaching and wildlife attacks

Information management
  • Develop and establish contractor’s own procedure for receiving, documenting and addressing complaints that is easily accessible, culturally appropriate and understandable to affected communities.
  • Provide advance notice to local communities by way of information boards about the schedule of construction activities.

Worker consultation
  • Consulting the workforce on health and safety measures is not only a legal requirement, it is an effective way to ensure that workers are committed to health and safety procedures and improvements. Employees should be consulted on health and safety measures and before the introduction of new technology or products.