



## Safety

### Regulations & Requirements

Stay safe and avoid citations. The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L & I) administers safety rules and requirements for the construction industry. You must comply with these requirements.

### Know the rules that apply to you

All of the applicable Safety Standards for Construction can be found in [Chapter 49.17 RCW](#) and [Chapter 296-155 WAC](#).

- Review L & I's safety section on [Contractors](#) for an overview, training tools, videos, fact sheets, and other helpful resources.

#### Avoid Common Citations

Review the follow WACs to avoid penalties:

- Ladders - [Chapter 296-876 WAC Ladders, Portable and Fixed](#)
- Scaffolds - [Chapter 296-874 WAC Scaffolds](#)
- Elevating Work Platforms - [Chapter 296-869 WAC Elevating Work Platforms](#)

### Learn how to spot & correct hazards

Review [Begin with Hazards](#) to keep you safe.

### Top 10 violations

Review the [Top 10 Violations](#) in construction and avoid a citation.

**Learn what to do if you get a citation:** Review L & I's [Citation and Notice](#) page to view penalties and required notifications.

### Working with Lead, Asbestos or Silica

**Lead, asbestos and silica materials can be highly toxic and are often found in construction.**

Review the information below to learn about certification, reporting requirements and controlling exposure.

- Lead-based paint - [Lead](#)
- Asbestos - [About Asbestos](#)
- Silica - [Silica](#)

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### Employers

**As an employer, you have responsibilities to ensure a safe workplace for your employees.** Here are basic requirements that apply to you:

#### Safety & Health Standards for Employers

**Know the [Construction Industry Safety & Health Standards](#) that apply:** Ensure workers can return home safely to their families.

#### Do you (or will you) use independent contractors?

Someone you consider an “independent contractor” may actually be considered a covered worker. Review the [Independent Contractor Guide](#) to avoid unexpected penalties.

#### Safety Posters & First-Aid

**Safety posters must be posted in your workplace:** View L & I’s [Workplace Safety Posters](#) page to order and to get [answers to questions about them](#).

**First-aid training is required:** Review [WAC 296-155-120](#) to learn who needs to have valid first-aid certificates on your job sites.

#### Accident Reporting

**Employers must report employee accidents:** By calling 1-800-423-7233. Review [If Your Employee is Injured](#) to learn how to file your Employer’s report and follow-up on claim information.

**You need to conduct an investigation of certain types of accidents:** Review L & I’s [Fatalities & Injuries](#) page to understand how to meet the requirements of documenting your preliminary investigation, if required.

#### Accident Prevention Program (APP) & Safety Meetings

**You need an APP:** Large and small employers are required to develop an Accident Prevention Program (APP). View [Provide Programs & Training](#) to find resources to help you write and implement your APP.

#### Additional Hazard Program Requirements

Depending on the hazards in your workplace, [other safety and health programs may be required](#).

**Required crew safety meetings:** View L & I’s [Guide to Crew Safety Meetings for the Construction Industry](#) to learn when to have them and what you must do.

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### Fall Protection

**Regardless of fall distance:** You must protect employees from fall hazards, such as floor holes or open sided walkways, platforms, or runways above or adjacent to dangerous equipment per [WAC 296-155-24607](#).

**4 feet or more:** You must ensure appropriate fall protection is provided, installed and implemented per [WAC 296-155-24609](#) if working at heights of 4 feet or more. View L & I's [Fall Protection, Fall Restraint & Fall Arrest](#) to learn about exceptions and [Fall Protection in Washington State](#) to identify the fall protection trigger heights for the construction industry.

**10 feet or more:** You will need a written Fall Protection Work Plan if working at heights of 10 feet or more per [WAC 296-155-246](#). View helpful [Presentations](#) from L & I on fall protection and [Sample Plans](#) to modify for your business.

### Free help is available

L&I's Division of Occupational Safety & Health Consultation Program (DOSH) offers a no-cost, [confidential consultation](#) to help you establish or strengthen your workplace safety program.