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## WORKSAFEBC COMPLIANCE OR REFUSAL OF INSPECTION SERVICE

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WorkSafeBC (WSBC) promotes health and safety in the workplace in conjunction with its Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. Demolition and construction sites can be of particular concern, especially when all aspects of the project are not carefully and competently managed. Helpful information on construction site safety can be found in the WSBC manual *Safe Work Practices for House Construction* (publication BK48). Refer to WSBC's website [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com) for additional information.

Under WSBC regulations contractors are directly responsible for the safe work practices of their employees. Likewise, the City has responsibility for the safe work practices of its staff including the time spent on construction sites providing inspection services. However, experience has shown that the level of safety varies widely on construction sites, and specifically on small construction sites related to the single family dwelling industry.

This bulletin advises that effective immediately, City policy regarding safe work practices is clarified as follows:

1. City inspection staff SHALL NOT enter or continue inspecting any construction site that to their knowledge is not in compliance with the BC Occupational Health and Safety regulation.
2. City inspection staff SHALL refuse inspection service to any unsafe site and SHALL leave a certificate of inspection or notification card on site with an explanation of service refusal. Also, WSBC may be notified of the unsafe conditions.
3. Jobs which are refused inspection service due to unsafe site conditions will be automatically charged a re-inspection fee which must be paid before scheduling an appointment. Note that construction shall not proceed until authorized by the required inspection.

Examples of issues that create an unsafe work site include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Openings in floor decks such as stair openings which do not have temporary guards in place.
2. Open staircases that don't have temporary handrails or guards in place.
3. Open decks or balconies which do not have temporary guards and which are required to be accessed for a requested inspection.
4. Open trenches or excavations 1.2 m (4 feet) deep or more, that don't have proper shoring or as an alternative, a geotechnical engineer's approval.
5. Construction sites that are cluttered with construction debris which presents a tripping hazard or potential for other injuries (e.g. nails).

6. Access provisions that are not in accordance with WSBC requirements such as make-shift ladders, ramps, or steps.
7. Unsecured overhead hazards.
8. Unstable work platforms.
9. Working in hazardous proximity to overhead power lines.
10. Perceived health hazards, such as disturbed asbestos containing material or uncontrolled silica dust.
11. No fall protection system in place where workers are exposed to a fall of 3 m (10 feet) or greater.
12. Any other obvious hazard which could jeopardise the safety of City staff.

Your co-operation is requested in assuring that all job site workers are familiar with this bulletin so that construction may proceed in a timely and efficient manner.

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