



U N I V E R S I T Y O F  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **Environmental Health and Safety Construction Safety Program**

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## **I. Purpose and Scope**

Construction and renovation activities at the University can be performed by either outside contractors or University workers. The work may be done exclusively by one group or the other, or the activities may be a collaborative effort. Because of these differing arrangements, it often is unclear who is responsible for a given situation, or who has the authority to ensure that safety and health regulations are followed. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has addressed this problem by developing rules for multi-employer worksites and defining the responsibility of each employer.

OSHA defines construction as "work for construction, alteration, and/or repair, including painting and decorating." Examples of activities that could be classified as construction include building renovations, excavation and trenching operations, painting, masonry, and certain activities associated with building systems such as HVAC, plumbing, and electrical supply.

## **II. Regulations**

The University of South Carolina requires that all contractual activities be in compliance with local, state and federal mandates concerning "protection of human health and the environment". In addition, the University of South Carolina is a "Drug Free Work Place" and requires all contractors to comply with South Carolina Code of Laws Section 41-15-10 ET sequence (1976 w/amendments). Any contractor doing business with the University will be required to document compliance with these mandates and to furnish specific information requested by EHS when notified to do so. The Contractor understands and agrees that jobsites are open at all times that work is being performed by the Contractor to authorized University employees who have been trained to identify unsafe work conditions. The Contractor will immediately correct any deficiencies noted by these inspections when requested by EHS to do so. In work areas where a specific hazard is posed, which includes, but is not limited to, lead paint and asbestos abatement projects, Contractors will be required to produce pre-plans which outline their method of work prior to the start of work. Each contractor shall designate a responsible member of the Contractor's organization to be at the site whose duty shall be the prevention of accidents.

Most of OSHA's regulations for construction work can be found in the OSHA Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926), entitled "Safety and Health Regulations for Construction." However, there are several instances where a particular job or activity may not be addressed by these regulations. In those cases, the regulations for General Industry (29 CFR 1910) may apply. If there are no regulations in either part for a given activity, then OSHA's "General Duty Clause", which states that an employer must provide a workplace free of recognized hazards, would still be applicable.

By submission of the bid, the vendor agrees to take all necessary steps to insure compliance with the requirements outlined above.

## **III. Multi-Employer Worksites**

OSHA has determined that employers at a multi-employer worksite fall into four basic

categories: controlling, creating, correcting, or exposing. The controlling employer is the employer who, by contract or actual practice, has the responsibility and authority for ensuring that hazardous work conditions are corrected. This employer is usually the General Contractor, or GC. When the University acts as the General Contractor for a construction project, it would be considered the controlling employer and would be responsible for the safety and health of all workers at the site. The creating employer would be the employer whose activities actually create a hazardous condition, while the correcting employer would be the employer that has the responsibility for correcting the hazardous condition. An exposing employer is any employer whose workers are exposed to the hazardous condition.

Depending upon the situation, any employer at a construction site could fall into one or more of these classifications and could be issued a citation by OSHA.

You should consider the multi-employer worksite rule whenever their workers are working at a University construction site, or whenever they are acting as the project manager for such an activity. In those situations where the University acts as the General Contractor, the burden for providing a safe worksite rests with the project manager and every University supervisor involved with the project. However, even on those projects where an outside contractor is acting as the General Contractor, you are still responsible for your workers' safety. Any hazardous condition should be brought to the attention of the General Contractor immediately, through the project manager, along with a request for its correction.

The General Contractor will notify EHS immediately if OSHA, DHEC, or any other regulatory agency comes on site.

If the condition is deemed hazardous as to be imminently dangerous to life and health, you should remove your workers from the worksite and contact EHS immediately.

#### **IV. Roles and Responsibilities**

##### Individuals

- Report unsafe conditions to Supervisor

##### Supervisors

- Ensure workers report unsafe work conditions promptly
- Ensure unsafe work conditions are reported to Project Manager
- Remove workers from worksite if imminently dangerous condition exist

##### Departments

- When acting as General Contractor, ensure safe work conditions at worksite
- At other times, report unsafe work conditions to General Contractor
- Report imminently dangerous conditions to EHS immediately

## Project Managers

- Monitor safety of site work conditions
- Report unsafe conditions to General Contractor
- Follow-up with General Contractor to ensure unsafe conditions are addressed

## EHS

- Provide assistance to Departments, Supervisors, and Project Managers
- Ensure imminently dangerous conditions are addressed before work resumes