Concrete and Masonry for Construction

How to Approach

Your approach to training — from what you cover to how you present the topic — can impact the effectiveness of the training. Too often, employees find safety training boring. This section helps you prepare, organize, and present the training efficiently and effectively.

Evaluate the workplace

Each construction work site may have different operations and hazards. Determine the requirements that your employees need to know. The OSHA regulation at 29 CFR 1926 Subpart Q, *Concrete and Masonry Construction*, includes the following sections:

- §1926.701, General Requirements
- §1926.702, Requirements for Equipment and Tools
- §1926.703, Requirements for Cast-in-place Concrete
- §1926.704, Requirements for Precast Concrete
- §1926.705, Requirements for Lift-slab Operations
- §1926.706, Requirements for Masonry Construction

Determine what you need to cover (beyond the regulatory basics) by identifying specific workplace hazards, issues, or affected employees. Deciding what you need to cover might include reviewing the equipment that will be used.

Consider your purpose and audience

During training, emphasize 'How this affects you (the employee)' to give the training more impact. Examples of what could happen can illustrate the importance of the training. Employees who understand that they have responsibility (especially regarding the safety of their co-workers) will probably take the training more seriously.

Prepare and gather materials

Review the equipment that will be used, and familiarize yourself with the training content. Also, review company policies, particularly those that go beyond regulatory requirements. Trainees will almost certainly ask questions you haven't considered. Familiarity with the content will allow you to confidently answer any questions.

Use this checklist to help you prepare for the class.

- Choose a date and location for training, and reserve a classroom if appropriate.
- If necessary, find a location for hands-on training.
- Arrange to have necessary equipment available.
- Make a list of supplies and materials to have on hand. (Examples include a chalk board, white board, or easels.)

Where should you start?

The OSHA regulation at 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2) simply states, 'The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.' For concrete and masonry construction, this may include the following:

- A general overview of the concrete and masonry regulation.
- Discussion of the equipment and tool requirements.
- As applicable, specific requirements for cast-in-place, precast, lift-slab, and masonry work.

How to incorporate and use these tools

Review the contents of the training materials presented here, and decide what to use based on conditions and operations at your facility. Using these tools, build a training program that addresses the hazards specific to your facility.