

Overview of proposed amendments to

Part 20: Construction, Excavation and Demolition Section 20.4, Safe access

Concern has arisen that limited access to construction sites for workers delivering materials such as drywall, cabinets, bathroom fixtures and trusses often results in worker injury. Although a requirement exists in section 4.33 that states that a work area must be arranged to allow the safe movement of people, equipment and materials, this is typically viewed as a general housekeeping requirement.

An amendment is proposed to section 20.4 to include a specific requirement for the provision of suitable access to all locations of a construction site to permit the safe delivery of equipment and material.

G20.4 Adequate access and safe movement of people, equipment and materials

Regulatory excerpt

Proposed section 20.4(2) of the *OHS Regulation* states:

Suitable access to all locations of a work site must be provided to permit the safe delivery of equipment and material.

Purpose of guideline

This guideline provides examples of “equipment and material” under proposed section 20.4(2), discusses the coordination necessary to ensure the safe delivery of material and equipment on construction sites, and provides examples of recommended safe delivery and interior access practices.

Equipment and material

Under section 20.4(2) of the *OHS Regulation*, suitable access to all locations of a work site must be provided to permit the safe delivery of equipment and materials. “Equipment and material” in this section includes but is not limited to drywall, appliances, cabinets, concrete, and trusses involved in construction projects.

Coordination

Prime contractors, owners, employers, sub-contractors, and delivery companies must work together to determine safe means of delivery. Recommended planning activities that can facilitate suitable access to all locations of the work site to permit the safe delivery of equipment and materials include

- Develop a company policy related to delivery access
- Preplan the project to provide clear access to all floors on the project for the safe delivery of the materials
- Coordinate delivery times with delivery companies

Safe delivery practices

Examples of recommended safe delivery practices include

- Clear ground access for telescoping boom forklifts or boom trucks, ensuring
 - the area is free of overhead hazards, such as power lines, and
 - the ground is stabilized with solid compacted soils or properly shored concrete slabs.
- Allow for several locations where materials can be delivered.
- Provide available access openings large enough to safely accommodate passing materials from the boom truck/forklift into the structure.
- Provide fall protection and/or anchor points on the structure at wall openings and balconies when transferring materials from the boom truck/forklift into the structure (see requirements under [Part 11](#) of the *OHS Regulation*).
- Install a window temporarily on the inside of the wall to allow for the window to be easily removed. If windows are not large enough or accessible for the delivery of materials, an access hatch should be considered.

Safe interior access practices

Examples of recommended safe interior access practices include

- Establish proper weight distribution of materials to ensure that the floor is not overloaded.

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- Ensure that there is sufficient access between framed walls inside the building; for example, plumbing and electrical wiring runs should not impede workers from carrying materials between walls to adjacent rooms.
- Use guardrails to accommodate the movement of materials on stairways (see also the requirements for guards and guardrails under sections [4.58](#) and [4.58.1](#) of the *OHS Regulation*).
- Ensure that stairs leading down to the basement are in place before the delivery of materials, or if there is no access to the basement, designate areas on the floor where materials can be lowered.
- Clear hallways and stairs of debris and equipment that may cause slipping and tripping hazards.