

Construction H&S has in recent years received wide spread attention through the media, making employees and the general public more aware of the number of fatalities and injuries occurring in the construction industry particularly on sites. The following are different stakeholders contributing to construction H&S awareness:

Organisation	Service provided	Website	Contact details
Department of Labour	Regulates the Health and Safety environment	www.labour.gov.za	Tel : 012 309 4000 Fax : 012 320 2059
Master Builders South Africa (MBSA)	Produced a Construction Health and Safety Manual and also provides training	www.mbsa.org.za	Tel : 011 205 9000 Fax : 011 315 1644
SAFCEC	Provides assistance to members with audit, training, design and implementation of OH&S programs and systems	www.safcec.org.za	Tel : 011 409 0900 Fax : 012 450 1715
South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)	Provides training on Construction Health and Safety	www.sabs.co.za	Tel : 012 428 7911 Fax : 012 344 1568
South African International Business Linkages (SAIBL)	Provides finance for enterprise development – training on Construction Health and Safety	www.eciafrica.co.za	Tel : 011 602 1200 Fax : 011 802 1060
cidb	Provides overview, recommends and guides contractors on Construction Health and Safety information	www.cidb.org.za	Tel : 012 482 7200

More Information

For more information about the ncdp and Construction Health and Safety, contact: cidb Enterprise Development Unit (Growth and Contractor Development Programme); Tel: 012 482 7241, or visit our website www.cidb.org.za, or Provincial Construction Contact Centres:

Gauteng CCC

SABS Campus,
Blocks N & R
No 2 Dr Lategan Road
Groenkloof,
Pretoria, 0001
Tel: 0861 428 222,
Fax: 0866 808 569

Eastern Cape CCC

Dept of Public Works
Qhasana Building
Independent Avenue,
Bisho, 2485
Tel: 0861 222 327,
Fax: 0866 742 908

Free State CCC

Dept of Public Works
Medfontein Building, Ground Floor
St. Andrews St, Bloemfontein, 9300
Tel: 0861 377 222,
Fax: 0865 571 832

KZN CCC

Dept of Public Works
428 Blink Bonnie Road
Mayville, Durban, 4000
Tel: 0861 596 222,
Fax: 0866 854 024

Limpopo CCC

Dept of Public Works
Works Towers Building
43 Church Street,
Polokwane, 0700
Tel: 015 293 9626/7
or 015 293 9658/9

Mpumalanga CCC

Nelcity Building
Office No G15,
Corner Samora Machel
& Paul Kruger,
Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: 0861 678 222,
Fax: 0866 856 733

North West CCC

Dept of Public Works
Old Parliament Building
Modiri Molema Rd
Gate House, Mmabatho
Tel: 018 387 2435

Northern Cape CCC

Dept of Roads and
Public Works
45 Schmidtsdrift Road
Kimberley, 8301
Tel: 053 861 9632,
Fax: 0866 906 295

Western Cape CCC

140 Long Street
Corner Long and Dorp Street,
Cape Town, 8000
Tel: 0861 927 222,
Fax: 0866 740 914



Contractor Tips & Advice: CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & SAFETY

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, the construction industry has a relatively poor Health and Safety (H&S) record and South Africa is no exception. The South African Construction Industry continues to contribute a disproportionate number of fatalities and injuries relative to other industrial sectors.

The drive to reduce poor H&S performance is largely driven through legislation, which plays a key role in motivating contractors to implement practical measures to comply with Health and Safety requirements.

Poor H&S performance is attributable to a number of factors, for example:

- Lack of management commitment,
- Inadequate supervision, and
- Inadequate or lack of H&S training.
- Finance / budget

Contributing to improving H&S in the construction industry is a priority of the cidb.

**THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR INTERVENTION
TO IMPROVE H&S PERFORMANCE**

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS HEALTH AND SAFETY

Compliance to Health and Safety requirements can protect your employees and keep you out of jail!!!

Increasingly, measures are being implemented to enforce legislation on H&S.

As a business you have a legal and social responsibility regarding the Occupational Health and Safety of personnel in your work environment. Sound occupational health and safety management is necessary because of hazards and risks that may have detrimental effect on personnel within their workplace. As a business owner,

you need to identify and control H&S hazards, lower the risks, and improve H&S performance.

It is your responsibility as a contractor to identify, analyse, record, update and consistently observe all the clauses in the contract that relate to H&S including the provisions of Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and the Construction Regulations.

The contract conditions and OHSA place specific legal liabilities on you through explicit or implicit clauses. It is incumbent on you to recognise these liabilities and to put control measure to limit the risks.

An act of omission may cause a legal liability for your business.

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE!!!

It is good business management

Implementing practical measures to address H&S is just what is needed to gain a competitive edge - it is good business management.

Poor management of Health and Safety will result in financial costs.

Beside injuries and fatalities, poor management of Health and Safety leads to loss of financial resources, either through replacement cost or compensating the affected as a result of your negligence.

It is important to recognise the link between good H&S performance and good business management.

Good H&S performance has business benefits, amongst them:

- Saves unnecessary cost (penalties for non-compliance).
- Improves competitiveness.
- Improves relationship with clients.
- Improves risk profile with financiers and insurance companies.
- Reduces risk of prosecution.
- Improves productivity of your company.
- Keeps your employees motivated.

**GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES = GOOD
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Implementation will gain you cidb Best Practice Contractor Recognition

Apart from the requirement of OHSA, Construction Regulations and Good Practice, the cidb is at an advanced stage of developing a Best Practice Contractor Recognition Scheme.

The Best Practice Contractor Recognition Scheme will amongst others:

- allow clients to recognise contractors that perform well on projects;
- allow clients to recognise the skills and competency of a contractor,
- promotes improved business performance and improved project delivery.
- promote business opportunities for better performing contractors and for contractors that meet or exceed client expectations.

In future, the Best Practice Contractor Recognition Scheme will be taken into account in the adjudication of public sector contracts bids.

**GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE WILL
IMPROVE YOUR COMPETITIVENESS**

KEY LEGISLATION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

The legislative framework addressing Health and Safety in South Africa is at three levels, firstly in terms of the national constitution, secondly in terms of Acts such as the OHSA and followed by regulations such as Construction Regulations.

As a contractor it is important to familiarise yourself with the legislative framework.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
NEEDS CONTRACTORS WHO ARE HEALTH AND
SAFETY CONSCIOUS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE
REDUCTION OF INJURIES AND FATALITIES**