



نظام الشارقة للسلامة والصحة المهنية
Occupational Safety & Health Sharjah

حكومة الشارقة
هيئة الوقاية والسلامة
Government of Sharjah
Prevention & Safety Authority



Guideline

Barricading

OSHJ-CoP-37

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1 Introduction

Barricading is a physical barrier which is usually temporary, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area and/or prevent people being exposed to a hazard. Barricading is one of the control measures entities could use to separate hazards from people.

2 Purpose and Scope

This Code of Practice (CoP) has been developed to provide information to entities to assist them in complying with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health System in Sharjah.

This Code of Practice (CoP) defines the minimum acceptable requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health System in Sharjah, and entities can apply practices higher than, but not lower than those mentioned in this document, as they demonstrate the lowest acceptable level of compliance in the Emirate of Sharjah.

3 Definitions and Abbreviations

Entities: Government Entities: Government departments, authorities or establishments and the like in the Emirate.

Private Entities: Establishments, companies, enterprises and economic activities operating in the Emirate in general.

Risk: Is the combination of likelihood of the hazard causing the loss and the severity of that loss (consequences).

Risk Assessment: The systematic identification of workplace hazards and evaluation of the risks associated. This process takes existing control measures into account and identifies and recommends further control measures where required.

Hazard: Anything that has the potential to cause harm or loss (injury, disease, ill-health, property damage etc).

Competence: The combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply all of them to perform their work.

Barricade: Means a physical barrier, usually temporary, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area and/or to prevent people being exposed to a hazard.

Soft Barricade: Is the use of tape to prevent or restrict access to an area. They are suitable in situations where physical protection by use of a safety barrier system is not warranted.

Hard Barricade: Is a self-supporting fence, or a self-supporting series of continuous plastic, concrete or other solid barriers, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Entity Responsibilities

- Undertake a risk assessment to determine the risks and introduce adequate controls to reduce exposure to hazards;

- Identify locations where barricading is required to control the risk of hazards;
- Ensure adequate barricading is installed where required to protect employees and others.

4.2 Employee Responsibilities

- Not endanger themselves or others;
- Follow precautionary control measures to ensure work activities are performed safely and without risk to health;
- Cooperate with the entity and receive safety information, instruction, supervision and training;
- Report any activity or defect which they know are likely to introduce risks to the safety and health of themselves or that of any other person.

5 Requirements

Barricading controls should be implemented to protect people from hazards, including but not limited to:

- Being struck by falling objects;
- Being struck by moving plant;
- Fall from height, including falling into open excavations, penetrations, and falls from unprotected edges such as removed flooring, walkways, stairs and/or hand railings.
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals;
- Restricting entry into a confined space or work area.

5.1 Planning

The entity should plan their work activities, ensuring that where barricading is required, it is selected, available, installed, maintained and provides adequate protection for the hazards involved.

The entity should ensure that barricading should only be used:

- When there are no other practical control measures available;
- As an interim measure until a more effective way of controlling the risk can be used or the hazard is no longer present;
- To supplement other control measures or as a secondary control measure.

5.1.1 Selection of Barricading

The entity shall consider the following factors when selecting the type of barricade, including but not limited to:

- Risks associated with the hazard;
- Which hazard and how is the barricade going to control them;

- The visibility of the hazard;
- The required strength of the barrier;
- The amount of clearance required by the barricade from the hazard;
- The length of time the barricading is expected to stay in place;
- The hazards that arise during work activities within the barricaded area;
- The risks associated with the installation, use, maintenance and removal of barricading.

5.2 Types of Barricading

5.2.1 Soft Barricading

Soft Barricading can be used to prevent entry of people and equipment as an immediate and short term control measure. This type of barricading will be used when the risk assessment indicates that the risk of using soft barricading is acceptable, including but not limited to:

- Scissor/expanding barricade;
- Post and chain;
- Plastic cone and plank;
- Flag type bunting;
- Plastic mesh barriers.

5.2.2 Hard Barricading

Hard barricading shall be used to physically prevent entry of people and equipment. This type of solid barricading shall be used to provide a physical barrier, including but not limited to:

- Mesh or hoarding fencing panels;
- Scaffolding tube and fitting to construct temporary walkways and handrails;
- Road traffic control barricade;
- Free standing A-frame barricades.

5.3 Installation and Use of Barricading

The entity shall ensure that the installation and use of barricading, includes but not limited to:

- Encompass the entire potentially affected area of the workplace hazard;
- Erected to separate hazardous areas by integration with existing structures or a stand alone installation;
- Entry points shall be positioned in such a way that they do not lead directly to the hazard;
- Additional hazards are not introduced;

- Erected so that all sides of the hazard are protected from unauthorised access and members of the public;
- Adequate lighting and warning lights are installed with appropriate signage to alert people to the presence of barricading.

5.4 Other Points

The entity should ensure that, including but not limited to:

- All barricades are accompanied by appropriate signage, which should be placed at all access points and relevant areas;
- Barricading is visible and identifiable;
- Illumination of barricades and signage should be considered where general lighting, either natural or artificial, does not provide suitable visibility;
- Processes are in place to restrict entry for employees and others into barricaded areas;
- The use of barricading is reviewed periodically to make sure it remains effective in controlling the risk;
- Barricades that are no longer required are removed as soon as practicable.

Further information can be found in OSHJ-CoP-35: Safety Signs and Signals.

5.5 Maintenance and Inspection of Barricading

The entity shall ensure that barricading is adequately maintained and inspected as part of the safe system of work, including but not limited to:

- Barricading is inspected after damage or involvement in an incident to ensure it maintains its effectiveness;
- Barricading is maintained to ensure:
 - Visibility during daylight and appropriately illuminated during darkness;
 - Appropriately signed at access points and relevant areas;
 - The hazard is completely encompassed;
 - Barricading remains effective;

If barricading is damaged and cannot maintain its effectiveness, it shall be removed from service, marked accordingly and disposed of or repaired.

The entity shall record and retain maintenance and inspection records.

5.6 Removal of Barricading

The entity should ensure barricading is removed when:

- The work has been completed and the hazard controlled no longer exists;
- Barricading is no longer required.

6 Training

Training shall be provided for employees who need to have adequate knowledge on how to select, install, maintain and remove barricading equipment safely.

The entity shall provide training for employees in languages and in a format that employees understand, including but not limited to:

- How to select the appropriate type of barricading to protect people from the identified risks;
- How to avoid risks when installing, maintaining, inspecting or removing barricading;
- Information and instruction on the safe use of barricades;
- How to inspect and maintain barricades.

Periodic refresher training should be conducted to ensure employees competency is maintained, including but not limited to:

- Where training certification has expired;
- Where identified as part of a training needs analysis;
- Where risk assessment findings identify training as a measure to control risks;
- Where there is a change in legal requirements;
- Where incident investigation findings recommend refresher training.

The entity must record and maintain accurate training records of OSH training provided to employees.

Further information on training can be found in OSHJ-GL-08: Training and Competence.

7 References

OSHJ-CoP-35: Safety Signs and Signals

OSHJ-GL-08: Training and Competence



8 Document Amendment Record

TITLE		Barricading	
DOCUMENT AMENDMENT RECORD			
Version	Revision Date	Amendment Details	Pages Affected
1	15 SEP 2021	New Document	N/A
2	04 JUL 2024	The document changed from a guideline to a code of practice. The document code was changed from OSHJ-GL-24 to OSHJ-CoP-37.	
2	04 JUL 2024	Risk register Added	10
2	04 JUL 2024	Checklist Added	13

APPENDIX 1. Risk Register

Some manuals within Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System include a sample risk register as an advisory document that entities can emulate. The examples listed in this sample may not be directly applicable to every entity; however, they serve as illustrative cases to enhance understanding of the methods used to evaluate activities within the entity, potential risks, and possible consequences. The sample demonstrates how to assess risks by calculating their likelihood and consequences.

Some manuals present this sample to emphasize the importance of risk monitoring, evaluation, and the implementation of appropriate control measures. It is unacceptable for an auditor from the Prevention and Safety Authority to find any entity engaging in hazardous activities without a thorough risk assessment process. We can anticipate and prevent workplace risks, and the risk monitoring process is not complex. Therefore, this appendix aims to provide a sample that aids in the monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of control measures, monitoring residual risks, and defining tasks and responsibilities for managing hazards.

Every government entity or private establishment has its unique nature of work and environment, which contain risks specific to its operations. Hence, each entity should develop its monitoring procedures based on this appendix. We can develop more detailed assessment tools beyond what this sample presents. As stipulated by Executive Council Resolution No. (15) of 2021 regarding the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System, employers are required to identify all foreseeable workplace hazards, assess the risk of injury or illness to workers, and implement consistent preventive measures to ensure workers' safety, health, and well-being. The same resolution also holds employers responsible for their employees, contractors, visitors, and anyone affected by the employer's activities. Therefore, this sample recommends including these individuals in the risk assessment process.

Activity/Task	Hazard	Consequences	Existing Control Measures	Risk			Additional Control Measures	Residual Risk			Person to Implement	By when
				L	C	R		L	C	RR		
Installation of Barriers	Improper installation leading to barrier collapse	Severe physical injuries	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Proper training on barrier installation and regular inspections	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]
Maintenance of Barriers	Damage or wear leading to loss of effectiveness	Barrier collapse causing accidents	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Regular maintenance and replacement of damaged barriers	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]
Use of Barriers in Elevated Work Areas	Insufficient barriers to prevent falls	Falls from heights potentially resulting in death	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Provide high-standard protective barriers	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]
Safety Training on Barrier Use	Lack of awareness about the importance of barriers	Ineffective use of barriers, increasing injury risks	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Provide regular training on how to properly use barriers	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]
Routine Inspection of Barriers	Corrosion or hidden defects in barriers	Barrier failure during use	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Conduct regular inspections to assess the condition and efficacy of barriers	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]
Identifying Areas for Barrier Installation	Choosing inappropriate areas for barrier installation	Failure to provide required protection	-	[1-5]	[1-5]	LXC	Analyze site risks to identify critical locations for barriers	[1-5]	[1-5]	Existing control measures – Risk (R) = Residual risks (RR)	-	[Date]

APPENDIX 2. Checklist

The checklist is used by Prevention and Safety Authority to monitor compliance levels during audit and inspection operations; it is not intended for use by government entities or private establishments.

Every code of practice or guideline published by the Prevention and Safety Authority within the Sharjah occupational safety and health system contains requirements that employers in the Emirate of Sharjah must comply with. Each manual includes an inspection checklist that summarizes the essential items used by the SPSA auditor to verify that government entities or private establishments comply with the manual's requirements. Auditors can add additional essential items as necessary. The inspection checklist also includes a manual reference for each essential item, as well as a sample of acceptable compliance evidence for each item. The SPSA's auditor may request additional compliance evidence based on the item's condition, as well as the severity and potential impact of non-compliance.

The SPSA's auditor uses the inspection checklist to provide a comprehensive report on the entity's status. We will use the same checklist to monitor manual standard violations. Non-compliance with these standards constitutes a violation of Executive Council Resolution No. 15 of 2021 regarding the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System. If the SPSA's auditor detects non-compliance, they can issue violations based on the approved violation list.

In this manual, the SPSA provides information and standards that employers conducting activities in the Emirate of Sharjah must adhere to. This is to ensure the safety of workers, property, and the environment. Adhering to the requirements of this manual helps improve the level of occupational safety and health at the workplace, and it shields private establishments from potential violations or financial penalties for non-compliance.

The Emirate of Sharjah's Executive Council Resolution stipulates that employers must exercise due diligence to ensure the safety and health of workers, contractors, visitors, and all those affected by the employer's activities. To avoid non-compliance, employers must ensure adherence to the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System requirements. Entities should develop their procedures and inspection checklists according to their activities, nature of work, and risk level.

Depending on recorded or reported incidents, and as necessary, the SPSA may amend the requirements in this manual. As a result, the attached inspection checklist may change. Occupational safety and health practitioners must stay up-to-date on published standards and any changes to the inspection checklist attached to each manual.

Audit/Inspection Checklist

Code Title	Barricading	Code No.	OSHJ-CoP-37	Rev. No.	2.0
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Sr.	Checklist Item	Clause in the Code	Acceptable means of compliance
1.	Are the risk associated with the barricading planned, identified, and assessed?	5.1: Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – check work plan/scheme – check Risk assessment
2.	is the barricading suitable and effective for the entity activities?	5.2: types of Barricading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – check the suitability of barricading
3.	Is the entity installing and using barricades effectively?	5.3 : Installation and Use of Barricading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Verify barricading installation and the surrounding environmental condition – verify the presence of lighting and warning lights.
4.	Is the barricading adequately maintained and inspected?	5.5: maintenance and inspection of barricading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Check barricading maintenance and inspection records.
5.	Are the concerned employees provided with necessary training and training record available?	6: training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – check OSH training records/certificate