



Construction Site Traffic Management Safety

This document provides the construction industry with information about WorkSafe's traffic management safety focus, and directs industry to detailed WorkSafe guidance.

WorkSafe is continuing to focus on traffic management safety at roadside worksites throughout Victoria, as part of the "Safe Worker and Traffic" (SWAT) campaign.

This year's campaign will be focusing on:

- the safety of employees, vulnerable road users (VRUs) and motorists; and
- the safe setup of construction loading zones.

WorkSafe inspectors will be visiting construction sites to ensure that traffic related hazards and associated risks are adequately controlled where employees (including contractors and their employees), VRUs and road traffic have the potential to interact.

Note: this document complements WorkSafe publication, *Construction Safety Focus – Safe Worker and Traffic*, August 2016 focus sheet.

Vulnerable road users (VRUs)

Vulnerable road users include, for example, non-motorised road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, persons with disabilities or reduced mobility and orientation; and motor-cyclists.

Common hazards and risks

The most common hazards to an employee undertaking traffic management activities is the risk of serious or fatal crush injuries resulting from contact with moving plant or road traffic. Working in low light or at night time may also increase the risk of crush injuries from moving plant or road traffic.

Common contributing factors that may create hazards and risks associated with site setup and traffic management include:

- insufficient signage to warn of changed traffic conditions for drivers and VRUs
- ineffective risk controls that do not eliminate or reduce risks to employees and VRUs from errant vehicles
- traffic management equipment, such as, signs, bollards and variable multi-message signs blocking and obstructing routes for VRUs
- unreasonable diversions for pedestrians and/or cyclists leading to unsafe behaviour
- inadequate space for loading bay setup to protect employees and plant (cranes/concrete pumps etc) from errant vehicles

- traffic management setups that are not implemented in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)
- poor planning or communication with nearby construction sites where multiple traffic diversions are in place, impacting on VRUs and motorists safety
- plant (eg crane / concrete pump outriggers) set up in proximity to or on roads and not protected from impact by an errant vehicle
- risks associated with the installation, operation and or removal of traffic control devices have not been addressed.

Duty holder obligations

An employer must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide and maintain for employees, a working environment that is safe and without risks to health. This duty extends to independent contractors and their employees.

Employers also must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons other than employees are not exposed to risks to their health or safety arising from the conduct of the undertaking of the employer. Other persons may include, for example VRUs and motorists.

Duty holders should also ensure that where the work they are undertaking impacts VRUs they have:

- provided clear signage, warning of changes to footpaths / cycle lanes, and that signage is located well in advance of the changed conditions
- adequately protected VRU's where pedestrian diversions onto active roads cannot be avoided by, for example, ensuring physical impact barriers are in place
- ensured travel paths for pedestrians are as convenient, direct and continuous as reasonably practicable
- taken into account, for example, visibility, lighting and/or sharp turns for cyclists when setting up travel paths
- a TMP that addresses how pedestrians cross safely using, for example, pedestrian signals phases at signalised intersections

Note: Compliance with a TMP does not necessarily equate to compliance with broader occupational health and safety obligations.

Construction Safety Focus

Construction site loading zone safety

Construction loading zones are established to assist the safe delivery and removal of, for example, construction material, structural elements, plant or equipment etc. Loading bays are also used to set-up and operate construction plant such as mobile cranes and concrete placing booms.

Things to consider when assessing the risk of a site loading bay include, for example, the safety of employees assisting the entry/exit of construction vehicles and equipment.

The location of a loading bay should be:

- on the construction site, or on an adjacent site, side road or laneway, rather than on a busy road
- away from electric assets (including overhead and underground power lines and tram or train traction lines)
- on a level surface, in an area free of underground services or voids
- in a well-lit area.

Traffic related risks should be controlled by:

- following a TMP
- providing appropriate, clear signage about changed traffic conditions
- using appropriate physical barriers where traffic and/or VRU diversion onto roadways cannot be avoided
- identifying where there is likely to be risk to pedestrians and cyclists safety from trucks and other vehicles entering and exiting the site.

Please see WorkSafe publication, *Information About - Construction Site Loading Zones* for further details.

Further information

Contact WorkSafe Advisory Service on **1800 136 089** or go to **worksafe.vic.gov.au**

- Information About – Construction Site Loading Zones
- Construction Safety Focus – Safe Worker and Traffic
- Construction Safety Focus – Powered Mobile Plant
- Construction Safety Focus – Falling Objects
- Information about – Safe Work Method Statements
- A guide to managing safety in Civil Construction – Industry Standard

Other resources:

VicRoads – vicroads.vic.gov.au

- Safety Alert - Serious Worksite Traffic Management Incidents, Oct 2017
- Worksite Safety Guide - Temporary Safety Barriers, Oct 2016
- Road Design Note – Worksite Safety Barrier Screens, March 2017
- The Worksite Safety – Traffic Management Code of Practice, 2010
- Working within the road reserve, information including Memorandum of Authorisation Forms
- VicRoads design notes for accepted safety barrier products (barriers/screens)

Standards – saiglobal.com

- Australian Standard 1742.3 – 2009 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Part 3: Traffic Control for Works on Roads
- Australian Standard 3845.1 Road Safety Barrier Systems and Devices, Part 1: Road Safety Barrier Systems

Note: This guidance material has been prepared using the best information available to WorkSafe, and should be used for general use only. Any information about legislative obligations or responsibilities included in this material is only applicable to the circumstances described in the material. You should always check the legislation referred to in this material and make your own judgement about what action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with the law. Accordingly, WorkSafe cannot be held responsible and extends no warranties as to the suitability of the information.