



Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland
Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid

Working safely in construction



The BES Occupational Safety Act (Arbeidsveiligheidswet BES) and other regulations impose obligations on employers and employees. The objective of these obligations is to increase safety in the construction industry and to prevent accidents and physical injury. This brochure does not discuss all obligations but it does discuss the most important ones.

1 Caring for one another

In order to work safely, caring for one another comes first. This also means that you should think in advance how work can be performed safely. First you should discuss the work with each other, inform one another and only after that you set to work. This is not only something for the board of directors and the management of the company. The construction workers on the scaffolding should also constantly check whether they and their colleagues can work safely before the execution of the work can start.



2 Announce the requirements and monitor them

Management notifies the employees of the general requirements and ensures that these requirements are met. This means that the employees are informed about the risks and receive instructions about the measures to be taken. In addition, it should be ensured that work is performed safely in the prescribed manner.



Employees in construction should at least have knowledge of:

- (1) The way in which the construction site should be protected from the risk of falling;
- (2) Why, when and which personal protective equipment should be worn;
- (3) What measures there are and should be taken to safeguard hygiene on the construction site.

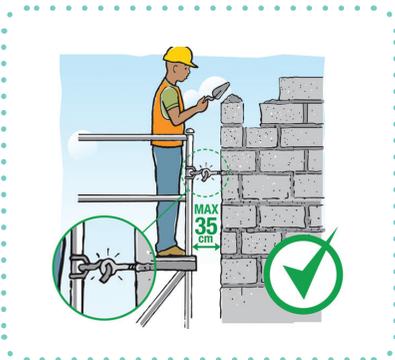
3 Necessity of good scaffolding

Each workplace higher than 2.5 meters should be protected from falling from heights. Guard rails comprise an upper rail 90 centimetres, an intermediate rail halfway and a toe board.



4 Anchoring of scaffolding

Scaffolding should be anchored sufficiently to the structure. Scaffoldings are placed at an appropriate distance from the structure. This means that the space between the structure and scaffolding does not exceed 35 centimetres.



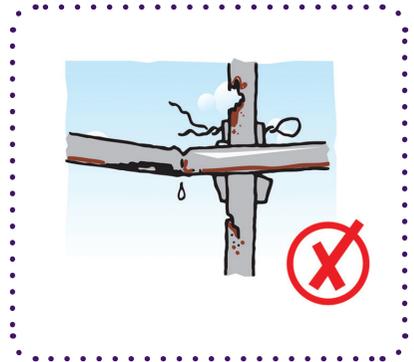
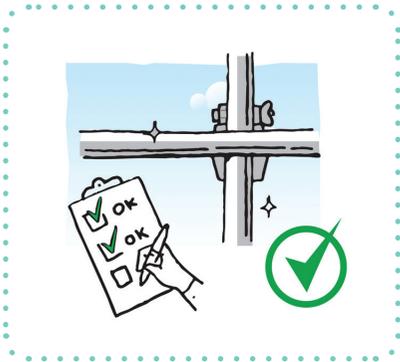
5 Securely place rails, fences and scaffoldings

The placement of rails, fences and scaffoldings should be executed safely on the construction site. This means that employees should wear harnesses when placing rails, fences and scaffoldings.



6 Periodic inspection on the scaffoldings

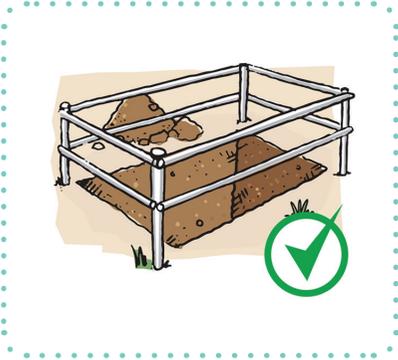
Scaffoldings should be inspected at least once a week after bad weather. Furthermore, scaffoldings should be inspected by a competent person prior to using them.



7

Fencing openings

Floor openings should either be fenced or covered. Stairwells should be fitted with rails and other safety measures where necessary.



8

Provide and monitor the use of protective equipment

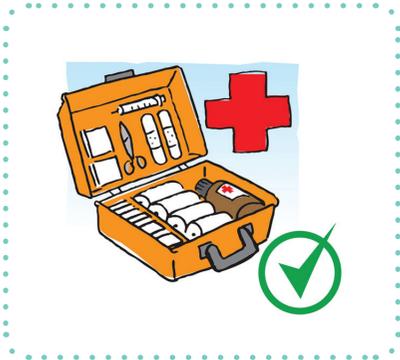
The employees should be offered proper protective equipment. In construction this regards hearing protection, safety shoes with a steel midsole and a construction helmet. If necessary, gloves and respiratory protection when it concerns substances which affect the hands and lungs.



9

Provide aid in case of accidents

Efficient means to provide first aid should be available where work is performed. At the construction site there should at least be a first aid kit to provide first aid.



10

Promote hygiene

Garbage should be removed as soon as possible and effectively. Extra attention should be paid to garbage in which mosquitoes may breed in standing water because they spread the viral diseases Dengue and Chikungunya. Each construction site should have sufficient toilets and urinals. One toilet should suffice for up to 10 employees, provided that it can also be used as a urinal.



11 Physical stress

Physical stress is by far the most important cause of occupational disability in construction.

Physical stress can be restricted by taking the following measures:

- (1) Prevent or restrict lifting weights exceeding 25 kilograms;
- (2) Prevent or restrict stooping down low;
- (3) Prevent or restrict reaching up high.



12 Other risks

Apart from the risks that are described in this brochure, it is also important to pay attention to other dangers, such as hazardous substances, working hours and rest times. Quartz dust and wood dust can lead to serious health problems over time. Excessively long working hours and too little rest cannot be maintained in the long run and the risk of an accident due to fatigue and concentration problems increases as well. Always contact the Labor Inspection if you are dealing with asbestos.

13 Enforcement

The Labour Inspectorate monitors the observance of various labour protection laws. This concerns laws such as: (1) Arbeidsveiligheidswet BES (BES Occupational Safety Act), (2) Arbeidswet 2000 BES (BES 2000 Labour Code), (3) Wet Minimumloon (Minimum Wage Act) and (4) Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen (BES Labour Law Foreigners). If adhering to the rules is not observed, the inspector has far-reaching powers to take enforcement action. The inspector may issue an official warning or order to suspend work or issue an order. Should this fail to result in observance of the rules, the inspector may draw up an official report.

Contact Information Labor Inspection

Phone: +599 - 715 8888

Website: www.arbeidsinspectiecn.com

E-mail: arbeidsinspectie@rijksdienstcn.com

