

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Department of Insurance and Finance

September 30, 1991

TO: All OR-OSHA field staff, Managers

FROM: Marilyn Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources

SUBJECT: Code Interpretations resulting from Construction Uniformity meeting

On May 3, 1991 , a group of compliance officers and central office management staff met to discuss problems with enforcement and interpretation of the existing construction codes. The participants were supplied with minutes of the meeting and an opportunity to comment on any conclusions. All comments have been reviewed along with any previous interpretations, both state and federal , of any of the topics discussed. As a result of this meeting and subsequent discussions between all affected sections, the following code interpretations are to be used.

SUBPART P - EXCAVATIONS 1926.650-65

When engineered shoring systems are used they must be stamped by an Oregon registered engineer whose registration is current. The system must be used in all details indicated on the plan approval for the job in question. Compliance Officers inspecting a site with shoring should check the engineered plans to see that the shoring system was properly installed and is being used in the proper soil class.

The design and other tabulated data for the construction of the shoring system must be at the job site any time the forms are being set up in the trench so that the CO can check the installation process. After the forms are in place and the work is ready to proceed the design data needs to be made available only upon demand by the CO and may be stored at the company's office.

One of the most frequently asked questions is, "What is necessary to ensure that someone qualifies as a competent person and what are their duties.

A competent person must know the following:

1. What is a proper access ramp for equipment and personnel to a trench and how to assure its structural safety.
2. Have knowledge of water removal equipment and pump size required to keep trenches dry. This person must also inspect the equipment to assure that it is operating properly. (1926.651(h)(2))
3. Have knowledge on building dikes and other diverting devices to divert water from trenches.(1926.651(h)(3))

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4. Know how to inspect trenches and trench work sites for health and safety problems. (1926.651(k)(1))
5. Have authority to remove people from trenches and to shut the job down. (1926.651(k)(2))
6. Must have knowledge of hazards affecting trenches such as vibration, surcharging and other trenching hazards. (1926.651(k))
7. Must know how to do a visual and manual soil analysis. (Appendix A, Sub (c)(2))
8. Must know how to classify soils. (Appendix A, Sub (c)(1))
9. Have knowledge on sloping and benching. (Appendix B)
10. Have knowledge of the effects of surcharging. (Appendix B, sub (3)(iii))
11. Know how to use the shoring tables and how to install the shoring system. (Appendix C)
12. Have A general knowledge of the trenching code requirements in Subpart P of the construction code.

It was decided that a competent person must be present to:

Classify the soil;
Select the shoring method;
Oversee the shoring installation; and,
Inspect the shoring installation.

If no hazards are present the competent person could then leave the work site until the shoring system is moved forward at which time soil conditions could change requiring the competent person to be present. The competent person would have to be present every time the shoring system is moved forward, except when the soil is classified Type "C".

The competent person can only be gone for a short time while the trench is opened up. New hazards could arise or spoil piles and equipment placed in position so as to be a hazard may require the judgment of the competent person.

A competent person with a two way radio could possibly work two or three~ jobs that are within blocks of each other.

Use of culvert pipe as shoring - Since the use of culvert pipe would be a non-engineered system and not fit any of the shoring tables of the code, culvert pipe could not be used except when engineered and installed as an engineered system.

When trench boxes are stacked we would not classify this as assembly work requiring engineered plans on site if the trench boxes were designed for the maximum trench depth and were designed to be locked together and the locking method is obvious and easily verified [1926-652(c)].

LOWER BLADE GUARD OF RADIAL ARM SAWS

CHAINS SATISFY THE DEFINITION OF A LOWER BLADE GUARD UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. In the normal at rest position the sides of the lower exposed portion of the saw blade shall be guarded from the tips of the teeth inward radially with no gullet exposed. The device shall automatically adjust itself to the thickness of the stock and remain in contact with the stock being cut for the 90° blade position (0° bevel) throughout the full working range of miter position. Additional hazards resulting from the use of such lower blade guard shall not be created. The lower guard shall not inhibit the intended use of the saw.
2. The height of the chain at its thinnest point must exceed the depth of

the teeth of the saw to meet code.

3. The chain must be stiff enough that it cannot be pushed into the saw teeth thereby causing the tooth to be broken off in any working position.
4. The chain in normal rest position must match the outward curvature of the saw blade.

If the guard, whether of chain or other material, meets these requirements it is then assumed to be in code compliance. (ANSI 01.1-1961 and OAR 437-03-1926.304(f))

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