

POLICY FOR DRILLING AND BLASTING

Potential Risks: Silica dust, toxic fumes and gases, entanglement, crushing, falls, electrocution, hearing loss, pinch points, cuts and scrapes, vehicle rollover, collision, falls of ground or ground failure.

Work Planning: Efficiency and safety at work go hand in hand. Indeed, the consequences of poor planning may not be limited to equipment, material damage and lost production, but could lead to workers being injured. It is important to think about.

Objective

This policy establishes the rules that must be applied to prevent risks related to drilling and blasting work on construction sites.

Scope

This policy applies to any person under the authority of, and conducting any associated work for, the benefit of EBC or its subsidiaries.

At all times, this policy and procedure should be diligently applied with professionalism and respect for others. In case of doubt or conflict in its application, managers have the responsibility to contact EBC Human Resources management for guidance in its implementation.

LEGEND

-  The behavior or activity required by the organization.
-  **Important non-compliance for the organization**

Planning

-  The employer must prepare and make available a work method which includes all activities including but not limited to: the transportation and storage of explosives, drilling, loading and blasting the holes, post blast inspection activities, and management of misfires, all before the work begins.
-  Only explosives that meet the requirements are permitted to be used on site.
-  Only workers with the required certifications are permitted to perform work related to drilling and blasting. In addition, the employer must ensure that they fully understand these specific work methods before the work is undertaken.

Organization

-  The employer must make sure that any vehicles used to transport explosives or blasting agents conform to the regulations and that they are made available to their workers to ensure that the movement of blasting materials does not put workers at risk.
-  Before the first blast, the employer must provide a safe method to eliminate or control potentially dangerous flyrock.

- The employer must limit access to authorized workers. They shall also ensure that the explosive storage facility meets regulatory requirements for structure and location as well as the type and amount of explosive agents it can hold.
- The employer must ensure that they make available to their workers: properly inspected drilling equipment (with an annual mechanical certification) that meets the regulatory requirements in its design. They need to also take into account the requirement for dust suppression systems that capture crystalline silica and other dust at the source.
- Prior to the loading of any blast holes, the employer must make sure to delineate the area in accordance with the regulations. He must then make sure to provide his workers with proper equipment and a process meeting the requirements as stated in the regulations and described in the work method.
- ⊘ The employer must ensure that when firing blast holes all workers are protected and all necessary steps are taken to minimize flyrock.
- The foreman must ensure that no one smokes, or carries substances or equipment that may increase the risk of explosion.
- The employer must ensure that only the required amount of explosives is brought onto site for the day and that any surplus is stored in the planned safe storage magazine.

Control

- ⊘ Explosives (stick, emulsion, primers, detonating cord, etc.) or their potentially harmful remains must never be destroyed by burning.
- ⊘ When drilling, do not wear loose clothing and stay away from moving parts.
- ⊘ Do not touch any drill steel during mechanical movement; do not modify or bypass any safety features of the production machine.
- ⊘ All drilling equipment on tracks, without a cab, must have an accessible and functioning emergency stop system and the operator must ensure it is working properly at the beginning of his shift.
- When blasting, all equipment must be at a sufficient distance according to the size and location of the blast. To be determined by the supervisor responsible for the work.
- Before each shift, the employee must complete the: "Drill Inspection Sheet" form (see EBC Safety Program).

If the rules of the main contractor, safety code or any regulation are different than those described above, the strictest shall apply.

Roles and Responsibilities

For the employee, worker, subcontractor, etc.:

Everyone has the obligation to respect and enforce this policy and procedure.

The Manager

The manager ensures compliance of this policy for the staff under their responsibility and ensures that the policy is known by all. In case of conflict, they shall communicate with the human resources department.

Human Resources Management

Human Resources management is responsible for ensuring the updates and distribution of the current policy. They must also oversee administration and determine disciplinary measures deemed appropriate for enforcement.

Disciplinary Measures

The person who does not respect the policy mentioned above will receive:

1. A verbal warning stating the correction(s) to be made, documented in the form of a correction or reprimand notice.
2. In the case of a repeated offence, a written warning is again written in the form of a correction or reprimand notice and is given to the person and to their superior.
3. Subsequently, if there is a recurrence, a write-up along with stricter disciplinary action resulting in an expulsion from the workplace for 1-2 workdays will be given.
4. In case of any further recurrence, a third written warning will be provided that can result in dismissal or expulsion from the project or a definite period of time.
5. Special Case:

When a person breaches a description for an **Important organization non-compliance**

In this specific case, the task performed must be stopped IMMEDIATELY, the first notice will correspond directly to step number 3 of disciplinary measures and the person will be expelled for a duration of 2 work days.

In case of any further recurrence, step 4 will apply regardless of the number of prior warnings given.

References :

- Safety Code for Construction Work;
- Hydro-Québec, SEBJ;
- Federal Law on Explosives;
- Provincial Law on Explosives – Explosives Regulations Act