



Checklist for Trenching and Excavation

Industries affected by this checklist	SIC	Check (✓) all that apply
Single Family Housing	4011	
Apartment and Other Multiple Housing	4012	
Manufacturing and Light Industrial Building	4021	
Commercial Building	4022	
Institutional Building	4023	
Highway, Streets and Bridges	4121	
Waterworks and Sewage Systems	4122	
Hydroelectric Power Plants and Related Structures	4123	
Other Heavy Construction	4129	
Wrecking and Demolition	4211	
Septic System Installation	4213	
Excavating and Grading	4214	
Equipment Rental (with Operator)	4215	
Other Site Work	4219	
Form Work	4222	
Steel Reinforcing	4223	
Concrete Pouring and Finishing	4224	
Plumbing	4241	
Dry Heating and Gas Piping Work	4242	
Wet Heating and Air Conditioning Work	4243	
Electrical Work	4261	
Power Plants	4111	
Gas, Oil and other Energy Related Structures	4112	
Gas and Oil Pipelines	4113	
Other Industrial Construction	4119	
Residential Swimming Pool Installation	4293	
Other Trade Work	4299	
Electric Power Systems Industry	4911	
Gas Distribution Systems Industry	4921	
Water Systems Industry	4931	
Municipal Government	8351	

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Inspection Items	Legislation	Y	N	N/A	Corrective Action / Comments
Administrative					
☞ Employer to provide training	Act 9(2)(c)				
Utilities					
☞ Locate underground utility	GR 180(1)				
☞ Working within 600 mm of underground utility:	GR 180(2)				
○ Notify authority	GR 180(2)(a)				
○ De-energize utility	GR 180(2)(b)				
○ Ensure employee uses operating procedure	GR 180(2)(c)				
☞ Utility poles supported or removed if within 3 m of excavation or trench	GR 180(3)				
Employee may enter trench more than 1.2 m deep when:					
☞ Sloped or benched at 1 to 1 to within 1.2 m of bottom	GR 181(1)(c) GR 182(1)(a)				
☞ Shored, braced or caged	GR 182(1)(a)				
☞ Shoring, bracing or caging is adequate when powered mobile equipment is operated near edge	GR 181(3) GR 182(1)(b)				
☞ Shoring, bracing or caging is certified by engineer	GR 181(4) GR 182(1)(b)				
☞ Cut in stable solid rock	GR 181(1)(b) GR 182(1)(a)				
☞ Unstable solid rock is supported by rock bolts, wire mesh or shoring	GR 181(2) & GR 182(1)(b)				

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☞ Loose material that may fall into trench is removed	GR 182(1)(c)				
☞ Ladder for access and egress is installed no more than 15 m away from employee	GR 181(1)(d)				
☞ Employee's distance from wall equal to depth when installing bracing in trench	GR 182(2)				
☞ Testing is carried out in trench where employee may be exposed to hazardous gas, oxygen rich or deficient atmosphere before employee enter trench	GR 184(2)				
☞ There is another employee working at the surface able to observe the employee in the trench	GR 185				
Employee may not enter trench more than 1.2 m deep to:					
☞ Install shoring or caging	GR 182(3)				
Trenches more than 1.8 m deep in solid rock must:					
☞ Have excavated material kept at least as far as the height of excavated material away from face or	GR 183(2)(a)				
☞ Have a fence at least 1 m from the trench face to support the material	GR 183(2)(b)				
Employer must:					
☞ Keep excavated material 1.2 m away from edge	GR 183(1)				
☞ Keep trench reasonably free of water	GR 184(1)				
☞ Not allow hazardous substance to be stored in trench	GR 184(3)				

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☞ Prevent accumulation of hazardous gases in trench and provide ventilation	GR 184(4)				
☞ Illuminate trench when work is being carried out in or near trench	GR 188(1)(a)				
☞ Prevent inadvertent entry by illuminating trench with warning lights or reflective materials	GR 188(1)(b)				
☞ Set up barrier to protect employees working in excavation or trench from vehicular traffic	GR 188(2)				
Employer must ensure operator (and the powered mobile equipment operator must):					
☞ Have unrestricted visibility to lower material into trench or excavation or	GR 186(a)				
☞ Use a signaller to direct the movement	GR 186(b)				

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