

## Part XVII CONSTRUCTION, EXCAVATION AND DEMOLITION

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### *Explanations*

#### **Section E376      Definitions**

**Subsection E376(b)**      The definition of “construction project” includes reference to "routine maintenance". Routine maintenance includes activities such as painting or glass replacement that are required as part of owning and operating a building and/or facility.

#### **Section E385      Inspections**

What is the intent of the phrase "other loading"? The broad perspective is that falsework is often used to support loads temporarily during construction; which are completely unrelated to any concrete formwork. The phrase “other loading refers specifically to the concept of falsework.

**Subsections E376 (d) & (e)** provide definitions for falsework and formwork.

Neither of these definitions specifically link falsework to concrete work. However, most suspended slab formwork uses falsework as part of the "supporting structure" for the formwork.

Falsework is often used during the erection of steel structures and bridges to temporarily support members until such time as the structural elements can be connected together and braced to be self-supporting and provide a complete structural system. The use of the phrasing "or other loading" in Section 385 was to cover the use of such falsework during the erection phase of structures. Falsework may also be required and used during the dismantling or demolition of a structure.

Some parts of the *OHS Regulations* include references to both formwork and falsework. These parts can and should be applied to a falsework system that is not part of formwork. Also, some clauses in these sections only reference formwork, and clearly are only applicable to formwork.

The employer has responsibility under Sections 382 and 384, to ensure that any structures or equipment which are being erected, used or dismantled are properly managed to ensure the stability of the structure and that no overloading of any elements takes place.

Clearly Section 385 requires an inspection immediately before placement of concrete. The phrase "other loading" in this subsection requires inspection prior to placing the "main" or design load on a falsework that is not part of a formwork. As described above, this would generally be loads such as trusses, beams and similar elements which require temporary support until they can be tied in and secured to perform as an effective structural system, and be self-supporting.

The phrase "immediately before" generally means the inspection be done not more than 24 hours prior to the start of concrete placing, and after construction of the formwork for the particular concrete pour has been substantially completed. Inclement weather subsequent to the inspection, or other causes for delay of the concrete placing, will necessitate an additional inspection.

## **Section E396      Underground utilities**

The most accurate information regarding the location of underground services will be available from the utility providers. Further information may also be obtained from the owner of the property to be excavated ( for example, the municipality).

*Notify the owner of the utility without delay*

Section 11 of the OHS Regulation requires an employer, whose work activities result in a hit or damage to a pipeline, buried electrical cable, or other such utility, to notify the owner of the utility without delay.