

Guideline

Barricading

OSHJ-CoP-37



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1 Introduction

Barricading is a physical barrier which is usually temporary, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area and/or prevent people being exposed to a hazard. Barricading is one of the control measures entities could use to separate hazards from people.

2 Purpose and Scope

This Code of Practice (CoP) has been developed to provide information to entities to assist them in complying with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health System in Sharjah.

This Code of Practice (CoP) defines the minimum acceptable requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health System in Sharjah, and entities can apply practices higher than, but not lower than those mentioned in this document, as they demonstrate the lowest acceptable level of compliance in the Emirate of Sharjah.

3 Definitions and Abbreviations

No.	Terms	Definitions
1.	Entities:	Government Entities: Government departments, authorities or establishments and the like in the Emirate. Private Entities: Establishments, companies, enterprises and economic activities operating in the Emirate in general.
2.	Risk:	Is the combination of likelihood of the hazard causing the loss and the severity of that loss (consequences).
3.	Risk Assessment:	The systematic identification of workplace hazards and evaluation of the risks associated. This process takes existing control measures into account and identifies and recommends further control measures where required.

4.	Hazard:	Anything that has the potential to cause harm or loss (injury, disease, ill-health, property damage etc).
5.	Competence:	The combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply all of them to perform their work.
6.	Barricade:	Means a physical barrier, usually temporary, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area and/or to prevent people being exposed to a hazard.
7.	Soft Barricade:	Is the use of tape to prevent or restrict access to an area. They are suitable in situations where physical protection by use of a safety barrier system is not warranted.
8.	Hard Barricade:	Is a self-supporting fence, or a self-supporting series of continuous plastic, concrete or other solid barriers, erected or placed to restrict the entry of people to an area.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Entity Responsibilities

- Undertake a risk assessment to determine the risks and introduce adequate controls to reduce exposure to hazards.
- Identify locations where barricading is required to control the risk of hazards.
- Ensure adequate barricading is installed where required to protect employees and others.

4.2 Employee Responsibilities

- Not endanger themselves or others.
- Follow precautionary control measures to ensure work activities are performed safely and without risk to health.

- Cooperate with the entity and receive safety information, instruction, supervision and training.
- Report any activity or defect which they know are likely to introduce risks to the safety and health of themselves or that of any other person.

5 Requirements

Barricading controls should be implemented to protect people from hazards, including but not limited to:

- Being struck by falling objects.
- Being struck by moving plant.
- Fall from height, including falling into open excavations, penetrations, and falls from unprotected edges such as removed flooring, walkways, stairs and/or hand railings.
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals.
- Restricting entry into a confined space or work area.

5.1 Planning

The entity should plan their work activities, ensuring that where barricading is required, it is selected, available, installed, maintained and provides adequate protection for the hazards involved.

The entity should ensure that barricading should only be used:

- When there are no other practical control measures available.
- As an interim measure until a more effective way of controlling the risk can be used or the hazard is no longer present.
- To supplement other control measures or as a secondary control measure.

5.1.1 Selection of Barricading

The entity shall consider the following factors when selecting the type of barricade, including but not limited to:

- Risks associated with hazard.
- Which hazard and how is the barricade going to control them.
- The visibility of the hazard.
- The required strength of the barrier.
- The amount of clearance required by the barricade from the hazard.
- The length of time the barricading is expected to stay in place.
- The hazards that arise during work activities within the barricaded area.
- The risks associated with the installation, use, maintenance and removal of barricading.

5.2 Types of Barricading

5.2.1 Soft Barricading

Soft Barricading can be used to prevent entry of people and equipment as an immediate and short term control measure. This type of barricading will be used when the risk assessment indicates that the risk of using soft barricading is acceptable, including but not limited to:

- Scissor/expanding barricade.
- Post and chain.
- Plastic cone and plank.
- Flag type bunting.

- Plastic mesh barriers.

5.2.2 Hard Barricading

Hard barricading shall be used to physically prevent entry of people and equipment. This type of solid barricading shall be used to provide a physical barrier, including but not limited to:

- Mesh or hoarding fencing panels.
- Scaffolding tube and fitting to construct temporary walkways and handrails.
- Road traffic control barricade.
- Free standing A-frame barricades.

5.3 Installation and Use of Barricading

The entity shall ensure that the installation and use of barricading, includes but not limited to:

- Encompass the entire potentially affected area of the workplace hazard.
- Erected to separate hazardous areas by integration with existing structures or a stand alone installation.
- Entry points shall be positioned in such a way that they do not lead directly to the hazard.
- Additional hazards are not introduced.
- Erected so that all sides of the hazard are protected from unauthorised access and members of the public.
- Adequate lighting and warning lights are installed with appropriate signage to alert people to the presence of barricading.

5.4 Other Points

The entity should ensure that, including but not limited to:

- All barricades are accompanied by appropriate signage, which should be placed at all access points and relevant areas.
- Barricading is visible and identifiable.
- Illumination of barricades and signage should be considered where general lighting, either natural or artificial, does not provide suitable visibility.
- Processes are in place to restrict entry for employees and others into barricaded areas.
- The use of barricading is reviewed periodically to make sure it remains effective in controlling the risk.
- Barricades that are no longer required are removed as soon as practicable.

Further information can be found in OSHJ-CoP-35: Safety Signs and Signals.

5.5 Maintenance and Inspection of Barricading

The entity shall ensure that barricading is adequately maintained and inspected as part of the safe system of work, including but not limited to:

- Barricading is inspected after damage or involvement in an incident to ensure it maintains its effectiveness;
- Barricading is maintained to ensure:
 - Visibility during daylight and appropriately illuminated during darkness.
 - Appropriately signed at access points and relevant areas.

- The hazard is completely encompassed.
- Barricading remains effective.

If barricading is damaged and cannot maintain its effectiveness, it shall be removed from service, marked accordingly and disposed of or repaired.

The entity shall record and retain maintenance and inspection records.

5.6 Removal of Barricading

The entity should ensure barricading is removed when:

- The work has been completed and the hazard controlled no longer exists.
- Barricading is no longer required.

6 Training

Training shall be provided for employees who need to have adequate knowledge on how to select, install, maintain and remove barricading equipment safely.

The entity shall provide training for employees in languages and in a format that employees understand, including but not limited to:

- How to select the appropriate type of barricading to protect people from the identified risks.
- How to avoid risks when installing, maintaining, inspecting or removing barricading.
- Information and instruction on the safe use of barricades.
- How to inspect and maintain barricades.

Periodic refresher training should be conducted to ensure employees competency is maintained, including but not limited to:

- Where training certification has expired.

- Where identified as part of a training needs analysis.
- Where risk assessment findings identify training as a measure to control risks.
- Where there is a change in legal requirements.
- Where incident investigation findings recommend refresher training.

The entity must record and maintain accurate training records of OSH training provided to employees.

Further information on training can be found in OSHJ-GL-08: Training and Competence.

7 References

OSHJ-CoP-35: Safety Signs and Signals

OSHJ-GL-08: Training and Competence

8 Document Amendment Record

TITLE	Barricading		
DOCUMENT AMENDMENT RECORD			
Version	Revision Date	Amendment Details	Pages Affected
1	15 SEP 2021	New Document	N/A
2	04 JUL 2024	The document changed from a guideline to a code of practice. The document code was changed from OSHJ-GL-24 to OSHJ-CoP-37.	Applied throughout the entire document
2	04 JUL 2024	Checklist Added	
3	01 MAY 2026	The name has been changed from the Prevention and Safety Authority to Sharjah Police Headquarters	
3	01 MAY 2026	The logo has been changed	

APPENDIX 1. Checklist

The inspection checklist is used by Sharjah Police Headquarters to monitor compliance levels during audit and inspection operations. It is not intended for use by government entities or private establishments.

Each code of practice or guideline issued by Sharjah Police under the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System includes mandatory requirements that employers operating in the Emirate of Sharjah must comply with. Each manual is accompanied by an inspection checklist that summarizes the essential items used by Sharjah Police Headquarters auditors to verify compliance by government entities and private establishments. Auditors may add additional essential items where necessary.

The inspection checklist includes a reference to the relevant section of the manual for each essential item, along with examples of acceptable compliance evidence. Auditors may request additional compliance evidence based on the condition of the item, as well as the severity and potential impact of any non-compliance.

Sharjah Police Headquarters auditors use the inspection checklist to prepare a comprehensive report on the compliance status of the entity. The same checklist is also used to monitor violations of manual standards. Non-compliance with these standards constitutes a violation of Executive Council Resolution No. (15) of 2021 concerning the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System. Where non-compliance is identified, violations may be issued in accordance with the approved violation list.

This manual provides requirements and standards that employers conducting activities in the Emirate of Sharjah must adhere to in order to ensure the safety of workers, property, and the environment. Compliance with the requirements of this manual contributes to improving occupational safety and health performance in the workplace and helps protect entities from violations or financial penalties resulting from non-compliance.

The Executive Council Resolution of the Emirate of Sharjah requires employers to exercise due diligence to ensure the safety and health of workers, contractors, visitors, and all persons affected by the employer's activities. To prevent non-compliance, employers must ensure full adherence to the requirements of the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System. Entities are expected to develop their own internal procedures and inspection checklists in accordance with their activities, nature of work, and risk level.

Based on recorded or reported incidents, and where necessary, Sharjah Police may amend the requirements of this manual. Accordingly, the associated inspection checklist may also be updated. Occupational safety and health practitioners must ensure they remain informed of all published standards and any amendments to the inspection checklists issued with each manual.

Audit/Inspection Checklist

Code Title	Barricading	Code No.	OSHJ-CoP-37	Rev. No.	3.0
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Sr.	Checklist Item	Clause in the Code	Acceptable means of compliance
1.	Are the risks associated with the barricading planned, identified, and assessed?	5.1: Planning	– check work plan/scheme – check Risk assessment
2.	Is the barricading suitable and effective for the entity activities?	5.2: types of Barricading	– check the suitability of barricading
3.	Is the entity installing and using barricades effectively?	5.3: Installation and Use of Barricading	– Verify barricading installation and the surrounding environmental condition – verify the presence of lighting and warning lights.
4.	Is the barricading adequately maintained and inspected?	5.5: maintenance and inspection of barricading	– Check barricading maintenance and inspection records.
5.	Are the employees concerned provided with necessary training and training record available?	6: training	– check OSH training records/certificate