

Safe Work Practices for Concrete Pump Operations

This bulletin provides information to employers, supervisors, and operators of concrete pumps on construction sites. The following two requirements from the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) must be complied with on all sites where concrete pumps are in use.

Operator's Duties

Section 20.52 of the OHSR states: *The operator of a concrete placing boom or mast must have full control of the pump and placing equipment controls whenever the equipment is operating and engage in no other duties while operating the concrete pump and placing boom or mast.*

The requirement means the pump operator must not participate in simultaneous activities on the worksite (such as, manually guiding the discharge hose to pump concrete into the formwork while operating the pump).

The pump operator's full attention must be given to the worker who signals the operator, and to monitoring ongoing safe operation of the machine (such as, ensuring outrigger/ground stability, boom position relative to obstructions and hazards).

Safe Access

Section 20.4 of the OHSR states: *Where practicable, suitable ladders, work platforms and scaffolds meeting the requirements of Part 13 (Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms) must be provided for and used by a worker for activities requiring positioning at elevations above a floor or grade.*

Unless working on the ground, pouring and pumping of concrete into wall and column forms must be conducted from work platforms that are a minimum of 510 mm (20 inches) wide. No worker is allowed to walk on the walers or the top of the formwork when guiding the discharge hose of the concrete pump during a pour.

Responsibilities

Employers, supervisors, and concrete pump operators are responsible for suspending pumping operations whenever unsafe work practices are observed during the concrete pour.

For more information

To find out more about safe concrete pumping operations, contact:

- Your local WCB office
- WCB Prevention Information Line:
604 276-3100 in the Lower Mainland or
toll-free in B.C. at 1 888 621-7233, or
- Online at the Regulation page of
www.WorkSafebc.com
<<http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part20.asp?ReportID=18579>>