

IV. TRAFFIC CONTROL & SAFETY

A. Traffic Control

Traffic control is an integral part of safety on a construction project. While inspection and maintenance of traffic control devices is the contractor's responsibility, an inspector should always bring deficiencies to the contractor's attention so repairs or changes can be made to provide a safe work zone for everyone. The inspector should also encourage the contractor to make these repairs or changes as quickly as possible to minimize the risk of incident.



Safety closure removed from closed roadway

B. SAFETY

Article 1107

Safety is everyone's job. The inspector needs to be alert to any activities that may pose a safety concern. The contractor is responsible for safety on the project site but the inspector should always be on the alert and immediately bring to the attention of the contractor anything that needs to be changed or improved.



The spreader belt can be dangerous

The Contractor's machines and equipment should all be in good mechanical condition. This should also include any safety guards required for the equipment. The inspector will not actually use the Contractor's machines or equipment, however they will be working right along side of it. The safety of the inspector and the contractor's personnel depends on their safe operating condition.



Worker standing in a safe position

Any time anyone must walk near the spreader belt, they need to be cautious. Trucks are backing up to the belt and can't see someone that may be standing between the truck box and the spreader. Also one should never walk under the belt when it is in the upright position. The hydraulics can fail and the belt can simply fall without notice.



Dust can be a hazard when it blocks visibility

The condition of the haul roads used by the contractor should also be inspected. The contractor has the responsibility to maintain dust control on these roads. Normally a water truck is used to periodically spray water on the road. If dust begins to make visibility difficult, the inspector should have the contractor water the haul road more frequently.



When working near traffic, one must always be aware of the traffic

If the construction is immediately next to traffic, a greater degree of awareness of ones surroundings is required. Anyone that must be next to an open lane must always be aware of where they are relative to the passing traffic. The picture at the right illustrates what can happen if the float handle is struck by the passing truck. If the handle is on the upstream side of his head, he would be killed if a passing vehicle struck it.



String line can be a tripping hazard

The string line is also a hazard. If someone trips over it and falls, they could fall under a passing vehicle

The inspector and the Contractor must designate areas for parking vehicles. Parked vehicles can be an obstruction to both the construction vehicles and the motoring public. Normally vehicles should not be parked on the shoulder of open roadways. IF they can be pulled down into the ditch and out of the way, this may work as a temporary location.



Offset string line reduces potential for tripping

During shouldering operations often dirt must be excavated and hauled to the project location. Although it is not the inspector's job to direct the contractor's activities, if an unsafe condition becomes evident, the inspector should not let it go on with out reporting it. The picture illustrates an unsafe condition where a collapse of the embankment could be disastrous for both the backhoe operator and the truck driver.



Keep vehicle away from traffic areas

If any violations of the specifications or any safety problems are noticed, the inspector should notify the contractor immediately.

The inspector should also notify the inspector in charge of the project as soon as possible. Any violations or problems and conversations with the contractor about them should be noted in the inspector's diary.



Unsafe conditions need to be reported