GENERAL AREA FENCING

Safety and Health Officer Certificate Programme

OBJECTIVES

- State the definitions of general area fencing
- List 8 reasons for general area fencing
- List 3 types of general area fencing
- List 6 features of general area fencing
- List 5 methods of general area fencing
- Explain the statutory requirements related to general area fencing

SCOPE

- Definition
- Statutory requirements
- Requirement for fencing
- Types of fencing
- Fence characteristics
- Method of fencing
- Conclusion

GENERAL AREA FENCING

Definition

- Protect a hazardous area from unauthorised entry by the erection or installation of a wire or rail.
- A **fence** is a structure that encloses an area, typically outdoors, and is usually constructed from posts that are connected by boards, wire, rails or netting.
- A fence differs from a wall in not having a solid foundation along its whole length.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT 1994

- Duty of employer and self-employed (Section 15 (2)(a)(b))

a) The provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that are, so far as practicable, safe and without risks to health

b) The making of arrangements for ensuring, so far as practicable, safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use or operation, handling, storage and transport of plant and substances

FACTORIES AND MACHINERY ACT (FMA) 1967

- Factories and Machinery (Fencing of Machinery and Safety) Regulations 1970
- Factories and Machinery (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations 1970

FACTORIES AND MACHINERY (FENCING OF MACHINERY AND SAFETY) REGULATIONS1970

Provisions for:

- Installation of fencing for hazardous machinery
- Types and construction of railings:
  - Wood, pipe, metal, metal structure
- Specifications and dimensions for railings

FACTORIES AND MACHINERY (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS 1970

Provisions for:

- Employer responsibility and compliance
- Responsibility of workers to use fencing

FACTORIES AND MACHINERY (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS 1970

Outlines situations where fencing is necessary:

- Floor openings
- Holes
- Pipes

NECESSITY FOR FENCING

To prevent accidents caused by:

- Falling into holes
- Falling to lower level platforms/areas
- Entanglement with a moving machine part
- Struck by falling object
- Struck by moving object (robotic machinery)
- Exposed to hazardous materials/substances

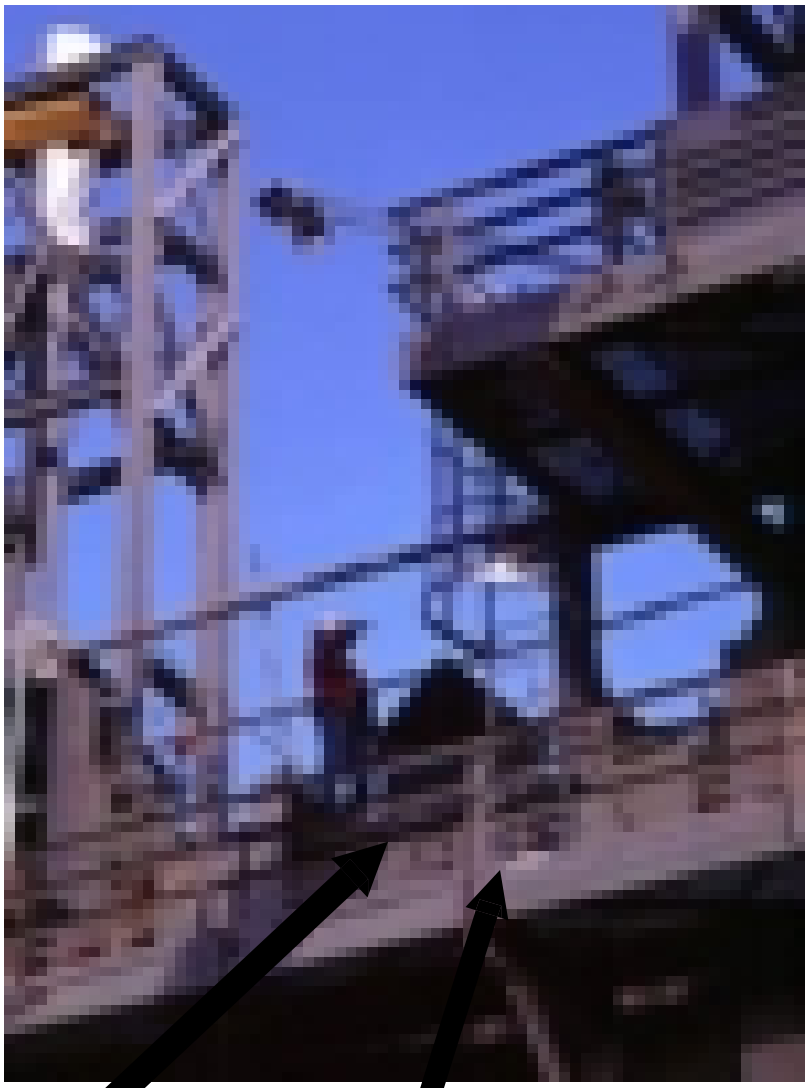
SITUATIONS REQUIRING FENCING

- Floor openings
- Exposed edges
- Catwalk
- Manhole
- Hazardous activities
- Hazardous processes
- Ramps
- Stairs

TYPES OF FENCING

- Railings
- Screens
- Wire nettings
- Toe board

TYPES OF FENCING



FEATURES OF FENCING

- Sturdy
- Resistant to harsh environmental factors such as acidic environment
- Suitable and safe design
- Requires minimal maintenance
- Provides required protection
- Fencing construction materials are not hazardous to workers

METHODS OF FENCING

- Identify area to be fenced
- Select suitable type of fencing
- Ensure temporary controls
- Install suitable fencing
- Observe administrative controls such as signages, inspections etc

CONCLUSION

- Fencing is required to:
  - Prevent unauthorised entry
  - Prevent accidents, unwanted incidents

- Statutory requirements related to fencing are outlined in OSHA 1994 and FMA 1967

- Selection of fencing is dependent on the type of activity or process, as well as characteristics of the fencing itself