

Temporary works and Infrastructure

Safety@Optus – Hazard Standard



What you need to know

The purpose and point of just about all temporary works at Optus is **"until a permanent solution is implemented"** to provide engineered solutions to keep customers, business connected. In worse case scenarios this also extends to natural disasters or major incidents to assist frontline emergency services stay connected during lifesaving situations

Telecommunications is an extremely diverse industry with a large, and at times, complex infrastructure which stands to reason why the risks temporary works pose has increased across the industry

In most cases temporary works is generally related to support of a structure or erection of scaffolding to facilitate other types of installations or work and it is removed.

However, here at Optus, temporary works is be used to describe many things, ranging from access roads, temporary site infrastructure , right up to electrical works, trenching, and complex site / facility arrangements.

Planning your work

When planning or implementing temporary works solutions or design, thorough end to end risk management strategies and controls must be taken into consideration. It is imperative to not only risk manage the implementation of the temporary work , but also its removal ensuring a safe transition to the permanent fix or permanent solution

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring temporary works are fit for purpose. As temporary works are a solution with an intent of being removed, often it is too easy to take short cuts when temporary works are be put in place which could lead to serious injury or death.

Legal Responsibilities

Performing temporary works as prescribed by the Commonwealth WHS Regulations 2011, is regulated by the several provisions such as working at heights, plant and structures, falling objects, falls, and electrical work. The Commonwealth has also developed several Codes in support of the regulations which can be found at [Safe Work Australia:](#)

Use of this Standard

This Standard "at times" will need to be read and used in parallel with other WHS standards to ensure that all concurrent duty holders are aware of its WHS obligations and all Optus contractor requirements are being met.

The requirements listed in this standard will be used by Optus as part of the contractor audit assurance framework to verify the management of the WHS contractual and legislative obligations

Australian Standards & Industry Codes

It is the responsibility of the Contractor to be aware of licencing rules and have PTWs when working and have a documented a process of "where applicable" how it meets the relevant Australian codes and standards for working with electricity or installing and decommissioning electrical devices and products



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Safety@Optus – Contractor Requirements



Contractor Requirements

1. The Supplier must have a process of risk assessment to identify and control any type of hazards and the associated risks with undertaking temporary electrical work or constructing any temporary structures, frameworks or doing any type of excavations
2. Where it is identified, the Supplier must have a process make all workers on site aware of the hazards and what the controls that are in place prior to the work commencing.
5. The control measures used to manage the different types of hazards must be clearly be communicated and consulted to all workers for input, then documented on the site-specific SWMS and the project risk register if applicable to other sites.
5. Where applicable, the identification of the hazards and risk associated with the temporary work must be carried out in accordance with the Optus hazard management standards or as required by the WHS laws and regulations
6. Where applicable, conduct inspections of works to ensure compliance with the control measures that have been put in place to ensure the safe systems of work are effective
7. A Supplier must be able to verify that any Emergency plans, entry and exit plans developed are by an appropriately trained certified personal and the site supervision of the tasks are performed by appropriately trained and where applicable "certified or licenced personal "
8. The Supplier is to ensure that any Council or local authority permits that are required are on site and available upon request
9. There is to be accountable put on site that can demonstrate the risk controls that are in place are fit for purpose and effective in preventing harm