

Safety Share

Exclusion and Restricted Access Zones



Don't ignore Exclusion and Restricted Access Zones

Serious injuries and fatalities can occur when workers enter areas where mobile plant, lifting operations, excavation works, suspended loads, or other high-risk activities are taking place. The most effective control is to eliminate the hazard where possible. If this is not possible then people should be isolated from the hazard using exclusion and restricted access zones. PCBU's have a duty of care to keep people separated from hazardous work areas.

Know the difference

EXCLUSION ZONE (EZ)



No Entry – Hazardous Area

An EZ is established where there is a significant risk of injury from construction activities.

Access is prohibited unless specifically authorised under approved project procedures or by relevant personnel.

Typical examples:

- Operational mobile plant.
- Suspended loads.
- Demolition activities.
- High-risk/severity excavation work.
- Floor Penetrations.

Controls:

- Effective delineation.
- Warning signage and information tags eg Exclusion Zone, No unauthorised entry.
- Disengage equipment and provide positive communication and line of sight with operator before entry.
- Activity must stop if communication or line of sight is lost.

RESTRICTED ACCESS ZONE (RAZ)



Restricted Entry Area

A RAZ allows authorised entry only by the Supervisor who ensures:

- The RAZ has clear perimeters and control lines.
- Workers are briefed on the hazards.
- Required controls are implemented.
- Personnel are signed onto relevant documentation.

Typical examples:

- Crane lifting operations (swing radius).
- Restrictions around precast concrete panels.
- Confined Space Entry.
- Formwork stripping.

Controls:

- Effective delineation.
- Warning signage and information tags eg Restricted Zone, No authorised entry.
- Disengage equipment and provide positive communication and line of sight with operator before entry.
- Activity must stop if communication or line of sight is lost.

Minimum Safety Expectations on Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) sites

Minimum safety expectations apply on all DIT construction and maintenance worksites.

At a minimum the following controls are to be applied:

- The requirement for exclusion and restricted access zones and methods of delineation must be risk assessed, documented and enforced.
- Where cones are the chosen method of delineation, blue cones must be used.
- No person shall enter an exclusion/restricted access zone without a positive signal from the operator (who must disengage the item of plant and ground implements) and approval to enter.
- There must be positive communication and line of sight with the plant operator and approved workers inside an exclusion/restricted access zone. All activity must immediately stop if communication or line of sight is lost.
- Worksite layouts must ensure adequate separation of plant and people.

References

- [SafeWork SA Code of Practice.](#)
- [DIT Minimum Safety Expectations – Third Edition.](#)