



Construction Site Safety Audit

30-point practical checklist for contractors & site managers

Use this guide as a structured prompt for site inspections, contractor assurance and leadership walk-rounds - with space to turn findings into clear, owned actions.

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A practical 30-point checklist for contractors and site managers.

A useful site audit should do more than identify faults. It should confirm whether the project is being planned, managed and monitored effectively, whether critical controls are working, and whether issues are being closed out before they become incidents.

How to use this guide: walk the site, speak to the people doing the work, look for evidence that controls are actually working, record actions with owners and dates, and follow up until they are closed.

What the audit should consider

- The physical condition of the site and work areas.
- Whether project controls match the Construction Phase Plan and current RAMS.
- Supervision, competence, briefings and worker understanding.
- High-risk activities, health hazards and interfaces with other work.
- Protection of visitors, neighbours and members of the public.
- Evidence of action: inspections, permits, records, close-out and learning.

SECTION A

Site set-up, access and welfare

Check	What good looks like
☐ Site security and boundaries	Perimeter controls are suitable; unauthorised access is prevented and openings are controlled.
☐ Access and egress	Routes are safe, maintained, lit where necessary and free from avoidable obstruction.
☐ Pedestrian / vehicle segregation	People and vehicles are separated where reasonably practicable; crossing points and reversing controls are clear.
☐ Deliveries and logistics	Delivery arrangements, waiting areas, banksman requirements and unloading zones are controlled.
☐ Welfare	Toilets, washing, drinking water, rest/changing arrangements and drying facilities are suitable for the work and workforce.
☐ Housekeeping	Walkways, work areas and fire routes are kept clear; waste and materials are controlled.

Audit prompt: Can a new worker or visitor move through the site safely without relying on local knowledge?

SECTION B

Work at height, excavations and temporary works

Check	What good looks like
☐ Work at height planning	Avoidance and prevention have been considered before personal protection; access equipment is suitable.
☐ Scaffolds and working platforms	Inspections are current; platforms, guardrails, toe boards and access are suitable; defects are controlled.
☐ Ladders / stepladders	Used only where appropriate, for suitable tasks and duration, with condition and stability checked.
☐ Open edges and floor openings	Protected by robust barriers/covers; changes are controlled and temporary removal is managed.
☐ Excavations	Collapse, falls, access, plant surcharge, water and underground services are controlled; required inspections are recorded.
☐ Temporary works	Designs, categories/checks, permits and coordination are proportionate to risk; changes are authorised rather than improvised.

SECTION C

Plant, lifting, tools and electricity

Check	What good looks like
☐ Plant condition and pre-use checks	Plant is suitable, maintained and checked; defects are reported and equipment taken out of use when necessary.
☐ Plant / people interface	Exclusion zones, visibility, banksman arrangements and communication are suitable for the task.
☐ Lifting operations	Lifts are properly planned, supervised and carried out safely; equipment and accessories have appropriate examination/inspection status.
☐ Tools and equipment	Tools are suitable, guarded where required and used by people with the right information, instruction and training.
☐ Electrical safety	Temporary supplies, leads, distribution equipment, isolation and protection are suitable for the environment and work.
☐ Stored energy and isolation	Electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical and other energy sources can be isolated and verified before intervention.

SECTION D

Health risks, fire and emergencies

Check	What good looks like
☐ COSHH and substances	Assessments reflect actual products/tasks; exposure controls, storage, labelling and spill arrangements are suitable.
☐ Dust and RPE	Dust is controlled at source where possible; RPE is suitable, correctly selected and face-fit requirements are addressed.
☐ Noise	Noisy work is assessed and controlled; exposure is reduced and hearing protection arrangements are suitable where required.
☐ Hand-arm vibration	Trigger times/exposure are controlled; low-vibration methods and task rotation are considered where appropriate.
☐ Manual handling	Significant handling risks are reduced through planning, mechanical aids, load changes and work organisation.
☐ Fire and emergency arrangements	Fire prevention, alarms, escape, extinguishers, muster, first aid, rescue and emergency contacts match the site risk profile.

SECTION E

Management, culture and public protection

Check	What good looks like
☐ Construction Phase Plan	Current arrangements reflect the actual project, site set-up, risks and interfaces.
☐ RAMS and briefings	Task documents are specific, current and understood by the workforce; changes trigger review and rebriefing.
☐ Competence and supervision	People have the right skills, knowledge, training and experience for their roles, with appropriate supervision.
☐ Worker engagement	People are encouraged to raise concerns, stop work and suggest improvements without unnecessary barriers.
☐ Public / third-party protection	Boundaries, footpaths, adjacent properties, schools, roads and other interfaces are considered and controlled.
☐ Incidents and learning	Near misses, unsafe conditions and incidents are recorded, investigated proportionately and translated into action.

CLOSE-OUT

Turn findings into improvement

The value of an audit depends on what happens after the walk-round. Every meaningful issue should have an owner, a priority and a realistic completion date.

Priority	Suggested meaning	Response
Critical	Immediate risk of serious harm or loss of a critical control.	Stop / isolate / make safe now. Escalate immediately.
High	Significant weakness that could lead to serious harm if not corrected.	Control promptly; set a short close-out date and verify completion.
Medium	Control needs improvement but immediate serious harm is less likely.	Allocate action and track to closure.
Good practice	Opportunity to improve resilience, clarity or consistency.	Consider as part of continuous improvement.

Close the loop: do not treat an action as complete because an email was sent. Verify the physical or procedural control has actually been implemented.

Simple action tracker

Finding	
Location / activity	
Risk priority	
Immediate action taken	
Action owner	
Target date	
Evidence required for closure	
Verified by / date	

FURTHER READING

Useful HSE references

Reference	Source
Health and safety in construction - HSG150	HSE - hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg150.htm
The absolutely essential health and safety toolkit - INDG344	HSE - hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg344.htm
CDM 2015 dutyholder guidance	HSE - hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/2015/
Traffic management on site	HSE construction safety topics
Provision of welfare facilities during construction work - CIS59	HSE construction guidance
Managing risks and risk assessment at work	HSE - hse.gov.uk/risk/

Want an independent site audit?

Lloyd Health & Safety supports construction businesses with site audits and inspections, RAMS, COSHH, noise assessments, CDM support and practical improvement actions.

Visit lloydhs.co.uk to discuss your site, project or ongoing support requirements.

Disclaimer: This checklist is general guidance only. It is not exhaustive and does not replace competent, site-specific assessment, inspection requirements or the legal duties applicable to a particular project or activity.