The Danish Working Environment Authority

The WEA is a government authority in Denmark, one of the functions of which is supervision of building and construction sites.

On Danish building sites, the provisions of Danish working environment legislation and associated guidelines apply.

The WEA has four Inspection Centres. Its head office is located in Copenhagen.

Inspection Centre staff includes specialists with knowledge of particular industries. Among these are inspectors specialising in the area of building and construction.

If you would like to find out more about the Danish legal provisions relating to building sites, you can find the information at www.at.dk.

**Reaction**

When visiting/inspecting your site, WEA inspectors will check whether your work is being performed in accordance with the Danish rules.

If they find anything that does not meet the requirements of the Danish rules, they have the following options:

**Guidance:** Giving advice and guidance on how your work can be performed in accordance with the Danish rules.

**Improvement Notice:** Issuing an Improvement Notice requiring the matter to be put right within a specified time limit.

**Prohibition Notice:** Ordering work to be stopped, in cases where there is an imminent substantial risk to your own or others’ life and health.

**Report to the Police:** Making a report to the Police with a view to prosecuting you for gross recklessness in the performance of the work.

See also folders on:

- Working on roofs
- Working on scaffolding
- Working on ladders
- Demolition work
- Signals for working with cranes
- Personal protective equipment
- Training requirements

Arbejdstilsynet
Telefon: 70 12 12 88
E-mail: at@at.dk
Hjemmeside: www.at.dk
**Building pits**

**Planning – general**

Before commencing excavation, check the following:

- Soil conditions, including for contaminated soil
- Whether traffic conditions could give rise to vibration
- Whether the required shuttering, bracing and marking materials are available on site
- Whether a plan has been drawn up for signage of work in progress near or on areas with traffic
- Whether there is an excavator suitable for the task
- Whether there is personal protective equipment, e.g. hard hats and safety footwear.

Access and escape routes should be via a 0.8-meter-wide stairway with hand and knee rails on both sides.

The edges of the building pit should be kept free of tools, material and excavated soil for a distance of at least 1 meter.

A 1-meter-high guardrail with hand and foot rails should be erected around the entire building pit.

In areas with traffic, speed control measures should be installed as well as a safety zone of at least 1 meter, in which no tools and material are stored and access is prohibited.

Barriers should be clearly visible and durable, possibly using concrete blocks.

**Trench excavations**

Trench excavation in which pipes or cables are connected, for example, should have a suitable width. The connection point, e.g. for welding district heating pipes, should be at least 0.6 meters wide on each side of the pipe, and have a length of at least 1 meter on each side of the joint. There should be at least 0.7 meters under the pipe.

In trench excavations deeper than 0.6 meters, and in which standing/walking work is performed, the width can be reduced to 0.6 meters.