

When Performing a Safety Inspection... You Should Do It Safely!

Inspections are done in order to keep workers safe. One job task where there is often little to no analysis of hazards is during the actual act of inspecting the workplace. Have you done a job hazard analysis of conducting job hazard analyses?

Inspections are done in order to keep workers safe. By identifying hazards which could be present in tasks and environments, employers can implement controls which prevent incidents from occurring. It's a necessary process which is fundamental to all safe workplaces.

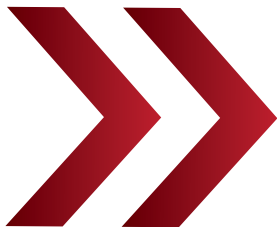
One job task where there is often little to no analysis of hazards is during the actual act of inspecting the workplace. Have you done a job hazard analysis of conducting job hazard analyses? If you haven't, what sense is there in trying to identify potential hazards during an inspection if the person doing so is being put in danger? Considering that millions of truck drivers are required to conduct pre- and post- trip inspections every day across North America, the need to keep these workers safe during inspections is ever-present in our industry.

Remember, it isn't just drivers who need to be conducting inspections. Health and safety committee members and representatives also have a legal responsibility to conduct regular inspections of the workplace. This is true in both provincial (Workplace Safety and Health Act S. 40(10)(h)) and federal (CLC S. 135(7)(e)) legislation.



As with any task conducted in the workplace, the first step in ensuring safety is to identify what hazards may be present. This process is known as conducting a hazard assessment. While the specific hazards that may be present varies from workplace to workplace, here are some common issues to look out for:

- Slippery surfaces are one of the leading causes of time loss injuries for workers in the transportation industry. If possible, make sure the inspection area is sanded. If this can't be done, ensure that proper footwear is being worn and walk using short steps.
- If possible, always conduct inspections in situations where plenty of light is available. This reduces the risk of tripping and potentially missing hazards that might otherwise go unnoticed. Where this isn't practicable, such as conducting a pre-trip at night, ensure that a flashlight is on hand to illuminate the area.
- When inspections are carried out at an elevated height it's important to follow appropriate working at heights procedure. If you don't have a working at heights procedure in place contact your RPM advisor to see how we can help you develop one. Always maintain your three points of contact when climbing down from an elevated height.
- Conducting a pre or post-trip inspection requires engaging in various awkward positions that could lead to musculoskeletal disorders. Keep in mind the risks involved with repeated twisting, bending, or lifting and see what can be done to control the ergonomic hazards specific to your pre or post-trip inspection.
- Wear temperature appropriate clothing when inspecting outdoors. Warm gloves are a key feature of any outdoor work. Remember, frostbite can set in within minutes on unexposed skin.



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Those conducting inspections must ensure they're wearing the appropriate CSA approved PPE for the environment they find themselves in. If workers need to wear it, so do inspectors. This includes high visibility clothing, protective glasses, ear protection and steel-toed shoes.

Further reading and resources:

[Workplace Inspections](#) (CCOHS)

[Five Ways to Make Your Workplace Inspection Effective](#) (The Checker)

[Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders](#) (CCOHS)

[What are ergonomic injuries?](#) (Safeopedia)

[SAFE Work MB Resources on Slips, Trips and Falls](#)

Do you need more information? RPM can help!

Those looking to learn more about their duties as committee members or representatives, or to fulfill their annual training requirement, should register in RPM's Health and Safety Committee or Safety & Health Representative courses. Course dates can be found on the calendar page of our website.

Please note RPM courses are offered to RPM registered companies only. Your company must be registered with RPM and be in the process of working towards certification or must have achieved the SAFE Work Manitoba Trucking Certificate of Recognition. Not yet registered in the RPM program? Today is a great day to get started!

Please contact RPM by emailing info@rpmsafety.ca or calling 204-632-6600, or by visiting our website www.rpmsafety.ca.

