

Chapter 4

Safety and Health Norms

CHAPTER

Safety and Health Norms

4

As per the BOCW Rules, the Establishments registered under BOCW Act should provide various facilities to maintain safety and health of the BOC workers working at the work site of the Establishments. Safety Committee should be formed for identifying the causes of accident *etc.*, and suggest measures for improving welfare, safety, health amenities in the construction sites including use of proper personal protective equipment. Details of the Establishment and compliance to the BOCW Rules is discussed in **Table-4.1**.

Table-4.1: Details of the Establishments and compliance to the BOCW Rules

Establishment	Rule	Purpose
Employing fifty (50) or more building workers	Rule 39	Every Establishment should prepare a written statement of policy in respect of safety and health of building workers and submit it to the Director General, Ministry of Labour and Employment, GoI. The Establishment should revise the safety and health policy as often as necessary.
Employing more than five hundred building workers	Rule 36	Every Establishment should prepare an Emergency Action Plan and submit to Director General. The plan is prepared to handle the emergencies like fire and explosion, landslides getting building worker buried, floods, storms, fire safety and other natural calamities <i>etc.</i>
	Rule 208	Every Establishment should constitute a Safety Committee ²² to identify the causes of accident, unsafe practices, health hazards and suggest measures for improving welfare, safety, health amenities in the construction site including use of proper personal protective equipment.
	Rule 229	Every Establishment should ensure that special medical service, or an occupational health service is available at the construction site at all the times. Once in three months report should be submitted to the Director General, regarding state of health of building workers, and the nature and causes of occupational injuries or diseases suffered by any of them and measures taken to prevent recurrence of such injury or disease.

Source: BOCW Rules.

Information regarding availability of above safety and health facilities, data of accidents (fatal/non-fatal) and deaths of BOC workers that have occurred at the construction sites was not furnished by the Department. In the test-checked Districts, it was replied that in the absence of specific provision in the inspection module, information was not available with the officials of the Department and that the matter would be brought to the notice of higher authorities.

²² Should be constituted by the Employer with equal number of Employers and Building Workers

However, Inspection report proforma submitted by the Inspecting Officers contained the provision for ascertaining the data pertaining to safety measures available in respect of fire protection, eye protection and fencing of motor only. In the absence of other checks in the Inspection Report, Inspecting Officers were not capturing the details of facilities provided like Special Medical Services, plan to handle natural calamities etc., to the workers as per the provisions of the Act.

This indicates that the Department was not equipped with proper enforcement mechanism to ensure the availability of all the required safety and health measures for the benefit of BOC workers at work sites.

4.1 Conclusion

Department did not ensure Safety Policy, Emergency Action Plan and formation of Safety Committees, Special medical services as required under the BOCW Rules. Inspection Reports submitted by the Inspecting Officers contained the checks for ascertaining the data pertaining to safety measures available in respect of fire protection, eye protection and fencing of motor only.

4.2 Recommendation

- The Department may devise a mechanism to ensure that safety and health facilities are available at the construction sites as per the provisions of BOCW Act.