

OSHA TRENCHING & EXCAVATION STANDARD – 1926.650-652

APPENDIX V: 2-1 – SITE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS FOR OSHA COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

1. Is the cut, cavity, or depression a trench or an excavation?
2. Is the cut, cavity, or depression more than 4 ft. in depth?
3. Is there water in the cut, cavity, or depression?
4. Are there adequate means of access and egress?
5. Are there any surface encumbrances?
6. Is there exposure to vehicular traffic?
7. Are adjacent structures stabilized?
8. Does mobile equipment have a warning system?
9. Is a competent person in charge of the operation?
10. Is equipment operating in or around the cut, cavity, or depression?
11. Are procedures required to monitor, test, and control hazardous atmospheres?
12. Does a competent person determine soil type?
13. Was a soil testing device used to determine soil type?
14. Is the spoil placed 2 ft. or more from the edge of the cut, cavity, or depression?
15. Is the depth 20 ft. or more for the cut, cavity, or depression?
16. Has a registered professional engineer approved the procedure if the depth is more than 20 ft?
17. Does the procedure require benching or multiple benching? Shoring? Shielding?
18. If provided, do shields extend at least 18 in. above the surrounding area and is it sloped toward the trench?
19. If shields are used, is the depth of the cut no more than 2 ft. below the bottom of the shield?
20. Are any required surface crossings of the cut, cavity, or depression the proper width and fitted with hand rails?
21. Are means of egress from the cut, cavity, or depression no more than 25 ft. from the work?
22. Is emergency rescue equipment required?
23. Is there documentation of the minimum daily excavation inspection?