

Road Construction Plans & Safety Awareness Bulletin

Purpose

This bulletin provides guidance to BCTS staff, registrants and contractors regarding safety implications relative to the road construction plans prepared by Seaward-tlasta BCTS.

Become Familiar With and Follow the Plan

Seaward-tlasta prepares plans that contain recommendations regarding how a TSL holder or major works contractor should conduct road construction activities in a manner that will likely achieve the intended results. Many of these recommendations have safety implications if not followed, so care must be taken to fully understand the project plan.

Road-related plans prepared by Seaward-tlasta and made known as part of the TSL or contract tender package include:

- Road Site Plan & Support Document
- Road Site Plan Map
- Detailed Road Layout & Design (data, plan, profile & cross-sections)
- Road Construction Map
- Road Reconstruction Map (if applicable)
- Bridge Designs (if applicable)
- Stream Classification Report (if applicable)
- Terrain Stability Field Assessment Report (if applicable)

Requirements relating to road construction are also captured in the Road Permit or Major Works Contract documents, as well as within the BCTS [Environmental Management System](#) (EMS) procedures, checklists and supplements. A key safety requirement addressed under EMS is adherence to Seaward-tlasta's specified [Wet Weather Shutdown Criteria](#).

Under the BCTS Safety Program, an access assessment is undertaken to examine the safety of the access corridor, including existing and new construction roads. The access assessment identifies any known hazards or concerns which could be encountered and this information is shared with the TSL holder or major works contractor as part of the tender package.

Review the Terrain Stability Assessment

Depending on the terrain conditions, a terrain stability field assessment may or may not be undertaken by Seaward-tlasta as part of its plan preparation. If one has been completed, the recommendations are summarized in the Road Site Plan Support Document and incorporated into the other plans listed above.

However, it is important to review and understand the terrain stability field assessment report itself, not just the summary of its recommendations. If the road construction reveals that the ground conditions are different than those anticipated by the terrain stability assessor and captured in the detailed road layout & design, there may be a change in conditions and a stop work scenario triggered under EMS.

It has been identified by geotechnical engineers that one of the most common reasons for road failures and slides is the failure of operators to cease operations when they see ground conditions changing that may not have been anticipated in the road construction plan.

If ground conditions are different than those captured in the road construction plan, it may be necessary to seek advice from a qualified professional on how to proceed.

Another important consideration relating to terrain stability recommendations is transition zones. A transition zone is where a road heading breaks out of one main construction category into another.

It has been identified by geotechnical engineers that transition zones are the most slide prone areas in road construction and require due diligence and an understanding of what is required before proceeding.

It is recommended that TSL holders and contractors ensure that their workers have [transition zone awareness training](#).

Project Supervisor at Pre-works

Given the complexity of road construction plans and the safety implications if they are not fully understood, it is recommended that TSL holders and contractors ensure that the person who will be supervising the work on-site attend the pre-work session held by Seaward-tlasta staff.

As required by the BCTS EMS, on-site supervisors must prepare for, complete, and document a pre-work with all employees, workers and sub-contractors involved in the project before the work commences.

It is critical that on-site supervisors fully understand the project plan.

Contact

For further details, contact Lisa Brown, Woodlands Manager.