Manual: Hospital and Hospital Clinics
Chapter: Environment of Care EC
Topic: Pre-construction Risk Assessment - Requirement

What is the requirement for an organization to have a pre-construction risk assessment?

Any examples are for illustrative purposes only.

Standard EC.02.06.05 requires the organization to have a pre-construction risk assessment process in place, ready to be applied at any time if planned or unplanned demolition, construction or renovation occurs. Additionally, organizations must have a process that allows for minor work tasks to be performed in established locations or under particular low risk circumstances using predetermined levels of protective practices. The assessment covers potential risks to patients, staff, visitors or assets for air quality, infection control, utility requirements, noise, vibration and any other hazards applicable to the work.

The Joint Commission does not prescribe a particular risk assessment and implementation process. Recommendations can be found in the most recent edition of the FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Many organizations use an assessment matrix that applies the construction intensity to the risk level of the construction planned as well as the location of the project, resulting in specific protective practices to be implemented for the duration of the construction project.

Staff and contractors performing the work are to have working knowledge of the specific protective practices being implemented. The organization monitors the project to ensure that the implemented protective practices are being followed and adjusted to meet any unforeseen conditions.

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