

**Construction Safety Practice and Administration  
in  
Qatar**

Located in the Arabian Peninsula, Qatar is bounded in the North, East and South by Persian Gulf and in the West by Saudi Arabia.





SAND DUNES

**Qatar** is currently undergoing industrial and infrastructural development consequent upon which there is an unprecedented influx of people into the country within the last four years.

This has both direct and indirect impacts on both the local population and expatriates as well as on the infrastructures and the resulting awareness of importance of safety and safe practices on all human activities at home, on the road and at work places.



CAPITAL : DOHA



RAS LAFFAN INDUSTRIAL CITY

There is no single body saddled with the responsibility of safety administration in Qatar, but every facet of domestic, commercial and industrial safety is adequately regulated.

The regulatory framework is found in the various Qatari standards administered by Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology.

The standards are classified by their sources and these sources include:

- **Gulf Standards** – based on the GCC countries agreements
- **International organization for Standardization (ISO) standards,**
- **International Electro technical Commission (IEC) standards**
- **International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).**



Qualification for Safety practitioners is as diverse as the nationalities working on various projects in this field, but demonstrated on the job experience in the profession is as important.

However, internationally recognized qualifications are usually given preference by employers.

These includes:

- BSC,
- NEBOSH & NIOSH (Europe)
- OSHA (USA) etc.



Various safety programmes of control are used on sites based on the background of the parent company involved.

Examples include :

- IIF - Incident & Injury Free
- B-safe - Behavioral safety
- START, STOP and SAFE
- Q-Safe - Qatar Safe



Road traffic presents a special safety issue as it affects all activities. This is under the administration of Police traffic department of the Ministry of Interior.

Road patrol, Radar Surveillance billboards & flyers are some of the control strategies in use.



Major construction activities include high-rise buildings, oil and gas plant, roads, airport expansion as well as residential estates.

Constructions in all these present peculiar safety problems as well as common basic safety issues.



Major risks associated with construction are those of fall from height.

For this scaffolding and its management is based on [British standard - CITB](#).





Another very important safety issue is concerning to Rigging & Lifting Activities which plays a vital role on any construction project anywhere around the globe.

Every company & project has its own lifting procedures which are basically extracted either from [API](#) or [BS](#).

Inspection of Lifting equipments & Rigging tackles are mostly in accordance to [LOLER-UK](#)

The procedures for inspecting lifting equipment & rigging gears are regulated by [Qatar Petroleum-QP](#) who has recognized & approved few third parties to conduct these, such as:

- [Velosi](#)
- [TuV](#)
- [ABS](#)
- [Lloyd](#)





All major construction companies,  
such as: Chiyoda, JGC, IHI, Technip, Bechtel, KBR, Daewoo etc  
and

support contractors (such as: CCIC, Qatar Kentz, Belleli, Dodsai, L&T etc)  
have dedicated safety team headed by Safety Manager.

The organizational structure and size differs from company to company depending  
on size and volume of operation and the Safety adviser or Safety Manager typically  
report to the Site or Project Manager.





Training plays a crucial role in safety awareness and attitudinal change and is given this important recognition in most companies by having dedicated safety orientation/induction center.

Different site-specific safety training is given based on the type of construction activity.

The multinational nature of most construction companies required that training be delivered in the language of many nationalities as applicable, e.g. Hindi, Tagalo, Chinese and English.

This also necessitates that Safety Officers must have some background knowledge of the language of the majority in a work site for effective communication.



The major driving force in safety is organizational reputation and image, contractual obligations and regulation.





Sectorial regulations plays major role in the regulatory framework of construction industry in Qatar.

Sectors like Oil and gas are regulated under the Qatar Petroleum procedures regulations and adopted standards.

In addition to this, many of the companies subscribe to one international standard or the other such as OHSAS 18001 and are audited against such standard either as due diligence or compliance audits.

These voluntary self-regulations seem to be achieving results as the companies strive to keep incidents to the barest minimum.

