

Toolbox Talks

January Safety Talk Week 4

Traffic Control – When is a TCP Required?

Section 18.6 of the OHS Regulation establishes that traffic control arrangements for a workplace may use a traffic control person (TCP) only when the use of signs, devices and/or procedures is not sufficient to provide effective traffic control.

A person should not be assigned or allowed to take on the role of a TCP, and thus be exposed to the hazards of traffic, unless it is necessary for the effective functioning of the traffic control plan.

A TCP may also be used:

- during emergency or brief duration work,
- when it is not practicable to control traffic with signs and other devices, providing sight lines and traffic speed allow oncoming traffic adequate warning of the work activity taking place.

One or more TCP(s) must be used if:

- it is necessary to institute a one-way traffic system by or through a work zone and the circumstances do not allow self regulating single lane traffic controlled by signs and other devices as specified in the Traffic Control Manual, and a traffic signal system is not used,
- work-related traffic cannot safely self-regulate to move in or out of the work area or safely coordinate with other traffic,
- an existing traffic control system, or an existing traffic signal light system, is not adequate to regulate traffic
- the work encroaches into an intersection so as to interfere with regular traffic movement,
- traffic speed or volume is a hazard to workers while setting up or removing other traffic control devices,
- other traffic control devices are not available in an emergency

OHS Regulation 18.6 means that you will need to assess each situation to determine when you need or do not need Traffic Control Persons. You must try to find a way to provide adequate protection for workers and the public by using other traffic control devices without Traffic Control Persons.

In addition, you may need to complete a Traffic Control Analysis (Risk Assessment) to determine the level of risk associated with the particular traffic control operation you are considering. This dictates the level of training required of TCPs on that job or if a TCP is even required.

*Refer to WorkSafeBC's Guidelines for Part 18

*Refer to the TOL Traffic Control Analysis Form (Risk Assessment)

