

Work Safe Bulletin

Workplace Lighting

The Cement Finishing Labour Relations Association represents the labour relations and safety interests of the cement finishing industry across Ontario.

The purpose of this document is to provide specific hazard information and promote discussion of safe work practices.

This bulletin does not contain a full analysis of the law, nor does it constitute a legal opinion. The CFLRA is not liable for any damages resulting from the use of this information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 289-837-1627 or by e-mail at info@cflra.ca

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Background:

Late shift cement finishers working at night sometimes find themselves trying to work in or egress a building with insufficient lighting.

Hazard:

Inadequate lighting can hide hazardous situations including tripping over debris and falls through floor openings or slab edges.

Recommended Operational Procedure:

Each project has unique characteristics that require careful consideration. It is strongly recommended that this issue be discussed at the preconstruction meeting with your safety representative. To reduce the possibility of an incident, it is recommended that the following be considered:

Ontario Construction Regulation 45 states: "The areas in which a worker is present and the means of access to and egress from those areas shall be adequately lit".

The Ontario Ministry of Labour considers a minimum of 5 foot candles (55 lux) as adequate from a housekeeping, access and egress perspective which can be achieved using 150 watt light bulbs suspended 2.4 metres high at 7.5 metres apart or 150 watt light bulbs suspended 3 metres high at 6 metres apart.

Note: The Ontario Building Code Table 9.34.2.7 calls for illumination to a minimum level of 50 lux and higher (depending upon usage).

Further references:

- [Ontario Regulation 213 for Construction Projects.](#)
- [Ontario Building Code.](#)

