

# Work Safe Bulletin

## Laser Screeding

The Cement Finishing Labour Relations Association is an Ontario not-for-profit ICI employer organization whose purpose includes the promotion of safe work planning and practices.

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.

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### Background:

Laser guided screed machines are common in industrial and commercial slab construction to obtain improved surface levelness.

### Hazard Concerns:

In addition to exhaust fumes and sound levels the movement of the laser screed and its telescopic boom could strike, pinch or entangle a worker.

### Considerations:

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:

1. Follow the equipment manufacturer's operating instructions at all times.
2. Only a trained operator shall operate a laser screed machine.
3. The emergency stop control, or "dead-man" switch should be checked prior to starting work each day (the machine should stop quickly upon its release).
4. Workers shall wear reflective vests and hearing protection when working around the laser screed machine.
5. The operator shall not move the laser screed without full view of its travel path and any obstructions. A signaller shall be used as necessary to ensure the safe movement of the laser screed equipment.
6. Workers shall remain clear of the laser screed boom, hydraulic leg supports and screed head at all times.
7. No person shall stand between the screed head or boom and any other fixed vertical obstruction (eg: columns or walls) while the screed is in motion.
8. No person should stand in the path of the screed head while it is in motion.
9. The screed operator shall always maintain a safe distance from workers.
10. The screed machine should be powered off, blocked and locked out as necessary prior to any repairs being performed.

### Further references:

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act.](#)
- [Ontario Regulation for Construction Projects.](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 833 Control & Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents.](#)
- [Infrastructure Health & Safety Association](#)

