

Trenching and Excavation Daily Inspection Log

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Jurisdiction: Adaptable. Covers OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P (US) and UK HSE HSG47 (Great Britain). Must be executed by a Competent Person. Apply only the section and thresholds for the governing jurisdiction; do not combine US and UK requirements as if they were one code.

Inspection checklist

Inspection header

Site name and location

Competent Person name and qualification

Inspection date and time

Inspection type (start-of-shift / post-event)

Soil classification and stability

☐ Soil type: Type A / Type B / Type C	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Trench depth	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Signs of wall instability: tension cracks, bulging, sloughing	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Weather conditions (rain, vibration from nearby equipment)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Protective systems

☐	Protective system type: sloping / benching / shoring / trench box / shielding	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Shoring / trench box: installed correctly, no damage or deformation	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Safe egress provided for trenches 4 ft (1.22 m) or deeper, with no more than 25 ft (7.62 m) lateral travel	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Protective system provided at 5 ft (1.52 m) or deeper unless the excavation is entirely in stable rock; shallower excavations are also protected when a competent person identifies cave-in potential	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Protective system for excavations deeper than 20 ft (6.1 m) designed or approved by a registered professional engineer	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Egress and atmospheric safety

☐	Safe means of egress (ladders, steps, ramps): within 25 lateral feet for all workers	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Atmospheric testing: oxygen, LEL, toxic gases (if hazardous atmosphere expected)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Spoil piles and surcharge loads

☐	Excavated material kept at least 2 feet (0.61 m) from trench edge	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Heavy equipment positioned at safe distance from trench edge	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	No surcharge loads on trench walls	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Underground utilities (UK HSG47)

☐	Underground utilities located and identified (CAT scan, potholing)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Utilities physically marked on ground	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	No utility strikes detected	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Post-event triggers

☐	Inspection after rainstorm: Yes / No	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐ Inspection after nearby blasting or heavy equipment movement: Yes / No	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____
☐ Corrective actions taken	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____
☐ Competent Person signature	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

References consulted

OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P – Excavations

UK HSE – HSG47: Avoiding danger from underground services

OSHA 1926.651 – Specific requirements for trenching

UK HSE – Trenching safety (HSG100)

Verify the current edition and local adoption before use.