

Exclusion zones are defined locations to prohibit the entry of personnel in to danger areas; an area into which unauthorized people are not allowed to go for reasons of safety or security

Exclusion zones are not always identical in appearance – they can be a nightline reflective flag, solid fencing or a barrier. However, in each instance they have a highly functional purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, allowing a high-risk activity to proceed, or to act as a barrier around a trench of 1.5 metres or deeper.

Exclusion zones are absolutely essential to everybody's safety. They can be created as part of a Safe Work Method Statement, or SWMS, to allow a high-risk activity to proceed, for example the operation of mobile plant. Exclusion zones can be part of your Site Traffic Management Plan.

The safety of truck drivers and other personnel around mobile plant during loading and unloading is a significant safety issue for every business in the supply chain.

The issue of truck driver and other personnel safety around mobile plant equipment during loading and unloading operations – referred to as 'loading, unloading exclusion zones' (LUEZ) is one of the significant safety issues confronting all levels of Industries within the supply chain



WARNING
Exclusion Zone

No entry

Construction
work overhead

What happened?

Workers re-guttering a 3-story building had installed hi-visibility flags to identify an exclusion zone that went along the existing building and extended out from the building 4m.

While the roofing crew were working from a scissor lift removing the existing guttering, a person who worked inside of the building wanted to gain access to the building. He believed that because he worked at that location it would be ok for him to step over the flags and enter the exclusion zone to gain access to the entrance that was blocked by the exclusion zone.

The workers were unaware of the persons entry into the zone. When a fixing was released a section of guttering unexpectedly fell. The person who had entered the work area was struck by the falling materials.

How could this incident have been avoided?

Exclusion Zone Risk Assessment

How likely is someone to enter your work area? Who should be in control? Who is best positioned to have control? How is the authority delegated/given? Is the person able to assume responsibility of authority? Ability to resolve issues.

Safety Tips

- To avoid any injury, separation of people and equipment must be at the forefront on any effective exclusion zone or LUEZ system
- The greater the strength of separation the greater the control and the less likelihood of an incident occurring
- Post signage including detours required
- Lock all entry points not being used
- Listen up at your start-ups and tool box talks so you know where the exclusion zones are on your site
- Never interfere with signage or barriers. You could put another worker's life at risk. If you need to gain access into an exclusion zone, find the site safety manager first before entering.
- If you see anything unsafe about an exclusion zone, stop work. Tell your safety manager and get it fixed
- You know what it's like. Sometimes you get a member of the public come into an exclusion zone like this. Stop them and safely escort them off the site
- When operating mobile plant, stop work if your exclusion zone is breached
- When you're working around exclusion zones, think safe, work safe, go home safe

TOOLBOX TALK

[illegible]