



# Construction

Medium Risk Sector



Construction or demolition of infrastructure, buildings and other installations.

Related Sectors:

- Cement and Concrete
- Wood Products
- Recycling and Waste Treatment



## Production Processes

The construction sector provides services such as the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure such as roads. Demolition and wrecking of buildings and infrastructure is also supplied by this sector.

Operations involved in construction activities:

- The construction site has to be cleared and prepared by groundwork such as excavation and land filling, leveling and land drainage. In addition to this, drilling operations, tunneling and shaft sinking may be necessary.
- The building of foundations and the construction of the building itself is conducted, which involves constructions made of wood, concrete, steel, bricks, etc. as well as external facings and cladding.
- Finishings such as electrical installations, painting, joinery and others are completed.
- Finally, the construction site is reinstated and its surroundings restored. Construction companies often operate large machinery fleets and may own reserves of building land.

## Sustainability Issues

L	Energy
L	Water Use
L	Emissions to Water
M	Waste
M	Emissions to Air
M	Ecosystems
H	Workplace Health & Safety
L	Disaster Risk
M	Site Contamination

### Sector Rating

- H High risk issue
- M Medium risk issue
- L Low risk issue

## Risks & Opportunities

- **Construction sites are risky for workers where occupational health and safety are concerned.**  
Construction entails significant risks to the health and safety of workers. Specific risks arise from underground construction, demolition (especially of industrial buildings and of constructions containing asbestos) and the use of heavy machinery. This requires special precautions and equipment.
- **Land contamination from previous industries is common in the construction sector.**  
Building companies often possess various sites for future development. Those sites might be polluted from former industrial use. Liability for environmental damage and decontamination should be addressed between the contractor and the developer. Site remediation may present major technical problems with significant associated costs where sites are contaminated or incorporate major natural features such as rivers.
- **Construction sites cause dust emissions and air pollution from the use of machinery.**  
Construction machinery often causes disproportionately high air pollution owing to low standards of prevention. Furthermore, significant dust emissions during construction or demolition activities may cause emissions to air.