

Masonry Work JHA

Completed instructional example | Edition v1.0 | October 6, 2026

Learning and planning resource. Adapt with the people doing the work, verify actual controls and follow required authorization. This document supplies no completed field inspections, signatures or work approval.

Work and worksite

This fictional example covers construction of a ten-foot-high concrete masonry wall at a new building. Blocks arrive palletized, cutting takes place at a designated wet-saw station, and a scaffold supports work as the wall rises. The wall requires a planned temporary stability arrangement until permanent support is in place. Grout pumping, demolition, and tie-in to an unknown existing structure are excluded. This walkthrough separates dust and skin-exposure controls from masonry-wall stability and scaffold requirements.

- Obtain the wall design, construction sequence, temporary support details, and the condition that permits removal of bracing. Assign responsibility for evaluating wind and other conditions against that arrangement.
- Establish the masonry limited-access zone before wall construction. Under 1926.706 it extends the full wall length on the unscaffolded side and equals planned wall height plus four feet; this ten-foot example therefore requires a fourteen-foot zone on that side.
- Keep the limited-access zone restricted to workers actively constructing the wall and retain it as required until the wall is adequately supported. Do not treat that zone as a substitute for bracing.
- Plan scaffold capacity, pallet locations, mortar supply, cutting controls, clean washing facilities, and separated delivery routes before stacking materials.

Actual project records needed: Location, crew and responsible people; equipment models and instructions; permits/releases; emergency arrangements; actual checks and approvals.

Task | Hazard | Control | Verification

Set the wall boundary and temporary stability arrangements

Hazard: An incomplete wall can overturn or collapse onto workers on either side, especially when weather or construction loading changes.

Control: Establish the required limited-access zone and implement the wall's temporary support arrangement. Walls over eight feet must be adequately braced unless otherwise adequately supported; bracing remains until permanent supporting elements are in place. Follow the actual design's construction and weather limits instead of inventing a universal wind threshold.

Verification: Confirm the zone, brace locations, installation sequence, and person authorized to stop wall work.

Reasoning: A masonry wall is not necessarily stable merely because mortar has been placed between the units.

Receive and stage blocks and mortar materials

Hazard: Delivery equipment can strike workers; unstable pallets or overloaded platforms can collapse, and repeated carrying can strain workers.

Control: Separate deliveries from pedestrian routes, land pallets on suitable supports, and keep loads within floor and scaffold limits. Mechanically move material near use where practical and stage manageable quantities. Maintain clear access and avoid locating heavy stock where it interferes with braces or overloads an edge.

Verification: Verify material location against the scaffold loading plan and the delivery equipment's route.

Reasoning: Convenient staging must also account for concentrated loads and temporary structural conditions.

Mix and supply mortar

Hazard: Dry ingredients create inhalation exposure; moving mixer parts and wet mortar can cause entanglement, burns, and dermatitis.

Control: Use the specified materials and assess dust exposure for mixing, which is not automatically covered by a masonry-saw Table 1 control. Keep mixer guards in place and isolate hazardous energy before clearing or servicing. Minimize skin contact with suitable cement-resistant gloves, clothing, and nearby washing facilities. Replace internally contaminated protection promptly.

Verification: Confirm the SDS, dust-control arrangement, guards, and clean-water location before opening bags.

Reasoning: A dust mask or skin cream alone does not control the process or prevent cement from remaining against skin.

Cut masonry units at the controlled station

Hazard: Cutting releases respirable silica; the blade and flying fragments can injure the operator or bystanders.

Control: For the planned stationary masonry saw, fully implement the applicable silica Table 1 method, including continuous integrated water delivery and manufacturer maintenance. Maintain the required blade enclosure, support the unit, and keep hands clear. Separate the station from other workers, manage wet electrical conditions, and collect slurry before it dries into dust.

Verification: Confirm water reaches the blade, guards are sound, the selected blade matches the machine, and slurry is contained.

Reasoning: Dust control must operate during each cut; a bucket of water nearby is not the specified delivery system.

Lay units and install specified reinforcement

Hazard: Heavy repeated lifts, sharp reinforcement, and reaching across the wall can cause strains, cuts, or loss of balance.

Control: Stage blocks and mortar within workable reach, use suitable handling aids, and adjust the work platform as the wall rises. Follow the specified reinforcement and temporary support sequence. Guard impalement exposures, keep hands out of closing joints, and avoid loading or leaning on unfinished sections beyond the planned arrangement.

Verification: Observe the actual reach and confirm braces and reinforcement remain consistent with the construction sequence.

Reasoning: A wall changes throughout the shift; access and support need to keep pace with its height.

Work from the scaffold as construction rises

Hazard: An overloaded or incomplete scaffold, unsafe access, or falling tools can cause serious injury.

Control: Use a scaffold designed for its intended loads and inspected by a competent person before each shift and after events affecting integrity. Maintain the required platforms, access, guardrails or other applicable fall protection, and falling-object controls. Keep material quantities within capacity and have scaffold changes made by authorized trained personnel under competent-person direction.

Verification: Confirm the inspection status and load arrangement before adding a pallet or moving the work level.

Reasoning: The masonry limited-access zone and scaffold fall protection address different hazards and both need attention.

Clean, secure, and hand over the incomplete wall

Hazard: Wind, removed braces, loose material, and dried cutting residue can expose workers after the masons leave.

Control: Remove loose debris using dust-controlled methods, maintain the required wall bracing and restricted area, and secure stored materials. Communicate incomplete sections, weather restrictions, and the condition for removing temporary support to the next shift. Do not allow another trade to relocate a brace without responsible review.

Verification: Confirm the handover names the wall sections still relying on temporary support.

Reasoning: Wall collapse exposure persists outside the period when units are actively being laid.

Pause and reassess

- Stop for wall movement, damaged or displaced braces, or weather outside the temporary support arrangement.
- Reassess a different wall height, changed openings, new scaffold loading, or restricted space that prevents the required limited-access zone.
- Develop separate controls for grout pumping, mortar removal, dry cutting, or work on an existing unstable wall.

Correct the condition, revise the analysis, communicate the change and obtain required authorization before restarting.

Improve the control

Needs improvement: Masonry wall: stay alert.

More useful: Establish the required limited-access zone and temporary supports, assign their checks, and stop work for movement or conditions outside the support plan.

Needs improvement: Sawing blocks: wear a dust mask.

More useful: Select the actual saw method, fully implement the relevant silica control, separate bystanders, and maintain water delivery and slurry collection.

Decisions that change the analysis

A delivery route crosses the limited-access zone. Can signs alone keep it open?

Resolve the conflict before wall work. The zone restricts entry; redirect or reschedule deliveries and maintain the required wall protection.

Can the crew remove a brace once the wall reaches its final height?

Height alone does not establish stability. Retain bracing until the required permanent support is in place and the responsible project personnel confirm the removal condition.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.706 — Masonry limited-access zones and bracing

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.706>

OSHA 1926.1153 — Respirable crystalline silica

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1153>

OSHA 1926.451 — Scaffold requirements

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.451>

OSHA 1926.702 — Masonry saws and hazardous energy

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.702>

OSHA — Preventing Skin Problems from Working with Portland Cement

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA-3351-portland-cement.pdf>

This original walkthrough was informed by review of uploaded examples, then rewritten for the stated fictional scenario using current primary references. It does not reproduce a source document or its approval record.

Walkthrough and draft builder: <https://www.toddjeromejenkins.com/jha-jsa-examples/masonry-work-jha>