

Welded Wire Mesh Installation JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A reinforcing crew will move flat welded-wire reinforcement sheets from restrained ground-level storage and install them on specified supports for a building slab on grade. Controlled sheet handling, trimming and access remain separate from concrete placement. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- The released reinforcement schedule identifies sheet type, overlaps, support and permitted trimming; sheet dimensions and handling method must suit the actual crew and equipment.
- A clear transfer route and stable staging supports are available beside the ground-floor slab.
- Rolled mesh, elevated slabs, crane rigging design, reinforcement redesign and concrete placement are outside this example.

Questions before work

- How will the sheet's size, flexibility and sharp edges be controlled during transfer?
- Where are protected walking and working routes as sheets and supports fill the slab area?
- Which released details govern trimming, overlaps and final mesh support before handover?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the mesh layout

Hazard: Wrong sheets or unsupported overlap details can prompt unsafe lifting or unapproved field alteration.

Control: Reinforcing lead compares delivered flat sheets and the actual bay with the current schedule. Confirm supports, overlaps, trimming and transfer method; resolve design or dimensional differences before cutting or laying material.

Verification: Lead checks sheet identification and the released placement details.

Reasoning: A reinforcement substitution can change both handling and the installed system.

2 Stabilize stock and clear the route

Hazard: A stacked sheet can slide or spring; protruding wire can cut a worker using a narrowed route.

Control: Restrain flat stock on suitable supports and release only the sheet being transferred. Separate the staging area from other work, arrange manageable quantities and protect exposed sharp ends along the walking route.

Verification: Foreperson studies stack stability and the planned travel clearance before release.

Reasoning: A light-looking sheet can still have a large, difficult-to-control footprint.

3 Transfer sheets as a coordinated load

Hazard: Sheet flex, uncontrolled turning or trapped fingers can injure the handling crew.

Control: Use the assessed mechanical aid or coordinated team method suited to the actual sheet. Assign movement commands, maintain separation from pinch points and set onto prepared supports; do not let one worker catch a falling corner.

Verification: Handling lead checks the selected method, crew positions and receiving space before each transfer.

Reasoning: The sheet's shape and spring are part of the load, not just its weight.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Trim at the designated station

Hazard: Wire ends can fly or spring when cut; an unsuitable powered tool can trap hands.

Control: Support the sheet and restrain the released offcut before trimming. Use the selected guarded tool and task-specific eye/hand protection; keep helpers out of the cutting path and stop/isolate the tool before adjustment or clearing.

Verification: Operator checks support, offcut restraint and tool condition before the cut.

Reasoning: Supporting both sides makes the result of the cut more predictable.

5 Place support and restrain overlaps

Hazard: Foot entrapment or unstable supports can cause a fall; displaced sheets can expose sharp ends.

Control: Install specified supports and overlap restraint while preserving planned walkways. Work from protected positions instead of treating the incomplete mesh as a platform; guard any fall-onto protruding steel exposures as the layout changes.

Verification: Reinforcing lead checks sheet support, overlap location and continued safe routes.

Reasoning: Correct reinforcement placement must coexist with usable crew access.

6 Clear offcuts and hand over

Hazard: Loose cut wire or an unmarked incomplete bay can cut the placing crew or create tripping exposure.

Control: Collect restrained offcuts and ties in suitable containers, secure remaining stock and identify unfinished areas. Transfer reinforcement inspection needs, access limits and exposed-end protection to the placing lead before concrete work is authorized.

Verification: Lead records actual placement findings and confirms the receiving crew's access restrictions.

Reasoning: This installation handover is not a concrete-placement release.

Pause and reassess

- The material arrives as rolled mesh or requires a different sheet-handling method.
- Uncontrolled sheet flex, offcut release or loss of clear transfer space.
- Missing supports, unapproved trimming or displaced protection/access routes.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Mesh is light; carry it over.

More useful: Handling lead selects a method for the actual sheet's dimensions and flex, agrees commands and releases a clear receiving route before transfer.

Needs improvement: Walk across the mesh to tie it.

More useful: Crew retains the planned work routes and installs supports/overlaps from protected positions without using incomplete mesh as an improvised platform.

Decisions that change the analysis

Does the rolled-mesh recoil rule make rolled stock part of this example?

No. This scenario uses flat sheets. Introducing rolled material adds recoil/unrolling controls and requires a changed analysis; the rolled-mesh provision does not describe the same handling task.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Record sheet identity and dimensions, current layout/support details, handling roles and equipment, trimming method, actual access and support findings, waste closeout and unfinished reinforcement restrictions before handover.

Training needs

- Instruction in the selected flat-sheet lifting/transfer method, coordinated commands and sharp-edge handling.
- Tool-specific trimming and isolation instruction, plus reinforcement support, access and impalement-protection responsibilities.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.703 Cast-in-place concrete

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.703>

OSHA 1926.701 Concrete construction loads and reinforcing steel

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.701>

OSHA 1926.300 Tool condition and guarding

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.300>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.