

Steel Erection: Verify Readiness and Release

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Why this matters

A steel member that looks connected may still depend on a particular erection sequence or temporary support. Crews need clear readiness information and an authorized release before the next activity starts.

Objective: Confirm the required readiness and interface decisions before steel-erection work.

Key hazards or failure points

Unverified commencement conditions; changed ground or sequence; unstable members; overhead loads; incompatible access; missing fall protection; premature follow-on work.

Practical controls

- The erection lead confirms required commencement information and the applicable work sequence with the controlling contractor. Specialist decisions govern structural stability, connections and load release.
- Coordinate hoisting, delivery routes, ground conditions and exclusion areas. Required crane and rigging inspections must be complete before use.
- Apply fall protection and training for the actual worker role and task. Keep follow-on trades out until the responsible parties release the area and transfer any required protection responsibilities.

Verify It in the Field

Confirm the erection lead has the required written notifications and current task arrangements. Crews must not judge concrete strength, anchors or structural readiness by appearance.

From safe positions, compare access, laydown, ground and load routes with the plan. Confirm designated inspection findings and restrictions. Do not trial-lift questionable equipment to prove readiness.

Ask who authorizes the next step and who accepts retained fall protection for other trades. Check actual barriers, access and task-specific protection before entry. Record evidence and unresolved restrictions; no generic bolt count proves release.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work for changed sequence or ground, uncertain stability, missing inspection evidence, displaced barriers or unclear release authority. Keep clear and obtain the responsible specialist's decision. Rebrief affected trades after correction and before work resumes.

Ask the crew

1. What evidence permits today's sequence to begin?
2. Who authorizes member release and the next step?
3. What must be accepted before other trades enter?

Subpart R coordination; not connection approval, structural design or rigging training.

Sources: OSHA 1926.752, .753 and .760; applicable erection documents.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/steel-erection-readiness-release