



Lookout protection method

Lookouts are used as a means of protection for workers carrying out limited works on the roadway.

Lookouts **MUST** keep a continuous watch for approaching road traffic for personnel carrying out work tasks.

On sighting approaching road traffic, the lookout **MUST** be able to warn the workers in time to allow them to react to the warning and move themselves and their tools/materials to a safe position before the road traffic arrives.

As lookout protection relies solely on the lookout keeping watch for road traffic hazards, work on the roadway (high risk zone) **MUST** only be done in daylight hours and only where sight distances can be met.

Under lookout protection:

- The roadway will not be made unsafe for road traffic movement or obstructed by plant or equipment.
- Only tools and equipment that can be cleared quickly can be used by the worker. For example, survey rods, cameras, small hand tools.
- A **position of safety** off the roadway **MUST** be available and accessible for worker (no barriers or other obstacles that may impede access).
- Minimum sight distance **MUST** be maintained at all times by the lookout and the distance confirmed through physical measurement for example, laser measure, car odometer, measuring wheel.
- The time taken to clear the roadway **MUST** be tested before work starts at the site. This should be tested off the roadway with any equipment/materials the worker will be using or carrying.
- Lookouts cannot be used at night.
- Lookouts cannot do any other work while performing lookout duties.
- Lookouts **MUST** remain in close enough proximity to workers who require lookout protection to ensure warnings can be given effectively.
- Lookouts **MUST** warn workers immediately of the approach of road traffic in ample time to make sure workers and/or equipment are moved to a position of safety.
- Lookouts **MUST** use an appropriate warning method for the type of work being undertaken and the environment, for example, a verbal warning would not be suitable if the lookout is on the verge - a siren would be more appropriate.
- Workers **MUST** remain in a position of safety until the lookout gives the all clear and the road traffic has moved past the work area.

Minimum warning time

It is important that the responsible person on site identifies the correct minimum warning time for workers to clear the roadway in conjunction with the lookout and tests this timeframe before lookout protection is endorsed for use and before workers move onto the roadway.

Example- Minimum warning time		
	7 seconds	Time required for workers and equipment to move to position of safety. (This time will vary depending on width of roadway, work being carried out and equipment used – time MUST be tested)
+	3 seconds	Reaction time (includes lookout and worker)
+	5 seconds	Position of safety before road traffic arrives
=	15 seconds	Total time required (minimum)

15 seconds is the minimum time that can be used for determining the required sight distance. The required sight distance will vary depending on the time required to clear the roadway to a position of safety and location speed limit. The time required for workers and equipment to move to a position of safety MUST be tested and confirmed prior to workers entering the roadway.

Minimum sight distance

This indicates the sight distance required to react appropriately to the approach of road traffic and MUST be the required sight distance as identified through the Minimum Sight Distance Chart (see below).

Weather conditions or visual obstructions may affect the ability to maintain sight distance.

A clear line of sight **MUST BE ABLE TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.**

A physical marker MUST be used to identify the sight distance.

Speed limit km/hr	Minimum Warning Time				Minimum sight distance
	15 seconds	20 seconds	25 seconds	30 seconds	
40	185	245	310	370	
50	230	310	385	460	
60	275	370	460	550	
70	325	430	535	645	
80	370	490	615	735	
90	415	550	690	825	
100	460	615	765	920	
110	505	675	840	1010	

Lookout responsibilities

Lookouts MUST:

- Keep watch for road traffic approaching the worksite from any direction – maintaining continual vigilance by looking each way.
- Warn workers immediately if road traffic approaches the worksite.
- Give the all clear signal for workers to move back onto the roadway - all road traffic MUST be safely past the worksite before this occurs.

Responsible person on site

The responsible person on site, is accountable for:

- Risk assessing the use of Lookouts
- Deciding how many lookouts are needed to protect the workers
- Assigning lookouts to the work site and advising workers of the lookouts who have been assigned
- Telling workers about the location/s of position/s of safety
- Ensuring the time to clear the roadway is tested prior to implementation
- Deciding how lookouts will warn workers by use of one or more of the following:
 - whistles, or
 - sirens, or
 - other suitable means.

Warning methods

The lookout can use the following to warn workers:

- verbal
- whistle
- siren
- other appropriate methods of communication to warn workers at the work site

A whistle or siren should be used by the lookout to warn the workers in noisy environments.