OpsAuditHub opsauditihub.com	DOC ID: **SAF-0053**	REVISION: **Rev 2.4 (2026)**
	STANDARD: **OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P**	AUDIT FREQUENCY: **Daily Pre-Shift**

Excavation And Trenching Safety Inspection Checklist

Operational Scope: This operational inspection checklist governs all excavation and trenching activities to verify structural stability and mitigate cave-in hazards. Mandatory compliance ensures adherence to federal safety mandates and protects personnel from life-threatening subsurface hazards.

MANDATORY PPE:	Hard Hat (ANSI Z89.1), Steel-Toe Safety Boots (ASTM F2413), High-Visibility Class 2/3 Safety Vest, Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1), Fall Protection Harness & Lanyard (if depth exceeds 6 feet)
PREREQUISITES:	Verify underground utility clearances and valid One-Call utility ticket before initiating inspection. | Ensure Competent Person is physically present on site prior to authorizing entry. | Review weather forecasts for potential heavy precipitation or storm events.

PRE-ENTRY & UTILITY CLEARANCE VERIFICATION

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
1	**Underground Utility Markings**	All underground installations (gas, electric, water, fiber) are visibly marked, verified, and hand-dug/potholed within the tolerance zone.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
2	**Competent Person Designation**	A designated Competent Person has inspected the site, tested soil conditions, and documented approval for work to proceed.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
3	**Atmospheric Testing**	Trench depth exceeds 4 feet with potential for hazardous atmosphere; oxygen content (19.5%-23.5%), flammable gases, and toxic contaminants tested and recorded.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS & EXCAVATION STABILITY

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
4	**Sloping and Benching**	Sloping or benching configurations strictly conform to OSHA Type A, B, or C soil classification ratios without unauthorized modifications.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
5	**Trench Boxes and Shoring**	Shields/shoring are certified by a Professional Engineer, structurally sound, free of cracks/bending, and extend at least 18 inches above surrounding edge.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
6	**Spoil Pile Placement**	All excavated soil, materials, and heavy equipment are placed a minimum of 2 feet back from the excavation edge.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

ACCESS, EGRESS, AND HAZARD CONTROL

#	COMPONENT / ITEM	VERIFICATION CRITERIA & ACCEPTANCE STANDARD	SEVERITY	STATUS
7	**Safe Means of Access and Egress**	Ladders, stairways, or ramps are securely positioned within 25 feet of lateral travel for workers in trenches 4 feet deep or greater.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
8	**Surface Water and Accumulation Control**	Precautions are in place to prevent water accumulation; pumps or drainage systems are inspected and operational if water is present.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
9	**Hazardous Atmosphere & Ventilation**	Continuous or periodic forced-air ventilation is active when hazardous vapors or oxygen-deficient environments are suspected.	**Critical (Immediate Out of Service)**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A
10	**Physical Barricades and Warning Signs**	Unattended excavations are surrounded by robust barricades, fences, or warning lights to prevent unauthorized pedestrian or vehicular entry.	**Warning**	[ ] PASS [ ] FAIL [ ] N/A

Certified Inspector / Lead Operator Signature: _____	**Date / Time:** _____	**Badge / Cert #:** _____
Site Safety Supervisor / Operations Manager Sign-off: _____	**Review Date:** _____	**Audit Status:** [ ] Approved [ ] Rectify

COMPLIANCE NOTICE: This document must be archived for a minimum of 12 months in accordance with workplace safety recordkeeping guidelines.