

Orientation and Industry Awareness



Overview of the Construction Industry

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Construction Careers After Apprenticeship

- Journeyman
- Management
- Specialization
- Teaching
- Owning a business

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Role of the Journeyman:

- Follow foreman's directions
- Communicate well
- Teach by example
- Model safe work techniques

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Role of the Foremen:

- Supervise 3-4 journeymen
- Plan each job
- Implement policies
- Enforce safety procedures
- Encourage staff development

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Role of the Direct Supervisor

- Supervise up to eight foremen and their crews
- Staff larger projects
- May have other responsibilities

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Role of the General Supervisor:

- Oversee entire project
- Responsible for project logistics
- Ensure quality control
- Ensure compliance with budget and schedule

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Role of the Subcontractor

- Acquire contracts
- Provide manufacturing facilities for items
- Provide personnel, tools, and equipment
- Provide management, insurance, billing

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Role of the General Contractor:

- Provide total control and direction for project
- Provide financial management of project and payment of subcontractors
- Oversee quality control of the project
- Responsible for warranties, punch list, and project cleanup.

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Role of Union Officers:

- Negotiate and enforce contracts
- Settle grievances
- Organize workers
- Manage local insurance, pension, and training
- Inform members of policy changes

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Role of Training Instructors:

- Teach knowledge, skills, and technology
- Promote safety
- Know latest developments
- Inspire respect for craft

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Role of Architects:

- Design the project
- Create plans, drawings, and specifications
- Ensure code compliance
- Represent owner during construction phase
- Contract and coordinate consultants

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Role of the Mechanical Engineers:

- Design mechanical systems
- Coordinate mechanical design with rest of project
- Provide drawings and specs for code review
- Review design and operating systems

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Role of the Electrical Engineers:

- Design electrical systems
- Coordinate electrical design with rest of project
- Provide drawings and specs for code review
- Review designs and operating systems

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Role of the Structural Engineers:

- Design structural systems
- Coordinate structural design with rest of project
- Provide drawings and specs for code review
- Review structural design

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Role of the Local Mechanical Inspectors:

- Ensure code compliance of designs and specs
- Inspect architectural and engineering plans
- Make detailed physical inspections at site
- Identify omissions or mistakes
- Warn or shut down noncompliant projects

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Role of the US Department of Labor:

- Promote workplace safety and fairness
- Administer US labor laws
- Ensure fair hiring Practice
- Enforce wage and benefit laws
- Protect retirement and insurance benefits

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Role of the Office of Apprenticeship:

- Require program registration
- Ensure program quality
- Ensure equality of access to program
- State Apprenticeship Councils serve the same function at the state level

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Role of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

- Establish and enforce workplace-safety standards
- Public information
- Federal fire prevention

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Conclusion:
Now you have an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the major parts of the construction industry. These pieces will fit together better as we continue the week, and will also become clearer if you decide to join the construction industry.
Does anyone have any questions?

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