

Transcript_Construction_6(A-B)_A typical daily routine

Interviewer: Could you describe a typical day on your building site?

Interviewee: Well, generally, a working day is from 7am to 5pm. That's from Monday to Friday. People either meet directly on the building site if they have been allocated work in advance, or else they meet at the site office, where they're then allocated work. If the workers are only allocated work at the site office, they then often have to organise materials themselves. They usually go and get these with their pickup trucks and then they start work.

The allocation of work is done by the building site office; in other words the main contractor – or else whoever is co-ordinating the project, namely engineers.

What else did I want to say? Well, in building work you're often subject to the elements. Where a building site is outdoors, people may have to be sent home if the weather is too dangerous to work in.

Interviewer: OK. Tell me, what professions are represented in the construction industry, and how is a team put together?

Interviewee: Well, in the construction industry we normally use the term 'crews'. These have an assistant foreman, and then there are bricklayers, assistants and, depending on the circumstances, also specialists, um, for example, façade specialists. As I mentioned before, work is usually allocated by the building site office, which is to say the main contractor. He puts the teams together, and they then tend to stay the same, where possible, so that they get to know each other and adapt to each other's working style. Over time they learn who is particularly good at what, and even who gets given the sandwich run!

Interviewer: OK. So what happens after the allocation of work?

Interviewee: So, either the workers themselves then have to go to the builders' merchants and get their building supplies or they go to the stores and get what they need. Ideally they'll already have what they need with them, or they're well supplied with what they need on the building site. Alternatively, they can send someone else to bring the things they need.

So, the workers go to the site. They know what they have to do because they've been briefed by the engineers or the main contractor, and then work goes on under the instruction of the assistant foreman. Every now and then someone will come round for an inspection, maybe the main contractor himself, to check that everything is progressing as it should be. If problems arise, the workers report them. At my firm everyone is given a mobile phone for that purpose. We also learnt very quickly they were shockproof and of course well protected against the dust, as there's a lot of dust and dirt on a building site. What was the question again?

Interviewer: Well I asked what happens after the allocation of work. I'll ask you my last question now, though: can you describe the end of the working day? Who does what?

Interviewee: Well, at the end of the day the workers have to tidy up – the building site needs to be left in a clean state. Generally, when work is over on a building site, it's brushed up. One very important element on the daily construc – sorry – is the daily construction report, which the foreman or the assistant foreman has to write up. It sets out what work was done that day, who was in, what materials were used and in what quantity, er, and if there were any unusual occurrences. In addition, it also states how the weather was.

Interviewer: Great. Thanks a lot for the information!