

# Frequently Used Construction Industry Terms

## English to Spanish:

**OSHA Dictionary  
Frequently Used Construction Industry  
Terms**

## Inglés a Español:

**Diccionario de OSHA  
Términos frecuentemente utilizados en la  
Industria de la Construcción**

## Pronunciation Guide Overview

Unlike English, Spanish spelling is very phonetic — that is, the letters consistently correspond to the same sounds. Some of those sounds are difficult for an English-speaking tongue to handle, but fortunately, the resulting English accent won't usually get in the way of understanding.

Spanish vowels are very short and pure compared to English ones. Even in unaccented syllables, they are pronounced clearly — completely unlike in English, where unaccented vowels all sound like the vowel in but. *You need to remember that there is no such sound in Spanish.* It may feel strange to pronounce every vowel, but Spanish won't work without doing it. Spanish vowels correspond to the vowels in the following English words:

a = "father"  
e = "bet"  
i = "be"  
o = "go"  
u = "to"

Two vowels together can be more challenging. In this guide, the letters "w" and "y" are used to indicate when they glide together as in some English words. For example:

ay = "side"  
auw = "sound"  
ie = "yen"  
ey = "say"

No attempt is made in this pronunciation guide to approximate the real Spanish sounds of "b," "v," and "d," because trying to remember to pronounce them correctly can be very distracting and make you self-conscious if you are a beginner. It may take time, but you'll pick them up on your own by listening to others talk. Meanwhile, getting them wrong won't prevent others' understanding of your meaning.

Another consonant sound that can be challenging for a native English speaker is the trilled "r," represented by rr. In this pronunciation guide, the trill is approximated by repeating the "r" sound twice, as in [in-ter-rup-TOR] for interruptor.

You may be accustomed to seeing pocket pronunciation guides that use common words of English to approximate the sounds of Spanish, like [deer-ek-SEE-yon] for dirección. We have avoided that approach for two reasons:

1. It perpetuates bad pronunciation of Spanish by not teaching you to keep your vowels short.
2. By relying on the un-phonetic and irregular spellings of English, it masks the regularity and predictability of the pronunciation of Spanish, making it harder for you to learn.

A	
Abatement (asbestos, lead, etc.)	Remoción de riesgo (de asbesto, etc.) [re-mo-SYON de RYES-go]
Alive or live (energized)	Vivo [VI-vo] (energizado [en-er-ji-SA-do]), caliente [ka-LYEN-te]
Anchorage	Anclaje [an-KLA-he]
Asbestos	Asbesto [as-BES-tos]
B	

Blue prints	Planos [PLA-nos]
Bloodborne	Acarreado por la sangre [a-kar-re-A-do por la SAN-gre], transmitido por la sangre [trans-mi-TI-do por la SAN-gre]
Body belt	Cinturón de seguridad [sin-tur-ON de se-gur-i-DAD]
Bulldozer	Tractor con pala mecánica [trak-TOR kon PA-la me-KAN-i-ka], niveladora [ni-ve-la-DOR-a]
<b>C</b>	
Caught-in	Atrapado [a-tra-PA-do], pillado [pi-YA-do], agarrado [a-gar-RA-do]
Caught-between	Pillado [pi-YA-do]
Cave-in	Derrumbe [der-RUM-be], desprendimiento [des-pren-di-MYEN-to], socavado [so-ka-VA-do]
Centimeter	Centímetro [sen-TI-me-tro]
Circuit breaker	Interruptor automático [in-ter-rup-TOR auw-to-MA-ti-ko], interruptor de circuito [in-ter-rup-TOR de sir-KWI-to]
Circular saw	Sierra circular [si-ER-ra sir-ku-LAR]
Competent person	Persona competente [per-SO-na kom-pe-TEN-te]
Concrete	Concreto [kon-KRE-to], hormigón [or-mi-GON]
Conductor	Alambre eléctrico [al-AM-bre e-LEK-tri-co], cable eléctrico [KA-ble e-LEK-tri-co]
Confined space	Espacio restringido [es-PAS-io res-trin-HI-do], e. limitado [li-mi-TA-do], e. encerrado [en-ser-RA-do], e. confinado [kon-fi-NA-do]
Connector (steel erection)	Conector de acero estructural [ko-nek-TOR de a-SER-o]
Cord and plug	Cordón y enchufe [kor-DON i en-CHU-fe]
Crane	Grúa [GRU-a]
Cross brace	Cruceta [kru-SET-a], refuerzo transversal [re-FUER-so trans-ver-SAL]
Cubic	Cúbico [KU-bi-ko]
Cylinder	Cilindro [si-LIN-dro]
<b>D</b>	
Dead (deenergized)	Sin energía [sin en-er-HI-a], muerto sin corriente [MWER-to sin kor-RYEN-to]
Deenergized	Sin energía [sin en-er-HI-a], muerto sin corriente [MWER-to sin kor-RYEN-to]
Demolition	Demolición [de-mo-li-SYON]
Demolition (wrecking) ball	Bola de demolición [BO-la de de-mo-li-SYON]
Designated person	Persona designada [per-SO-na de-sig-NA-da], persona autorizada [per-SO-na auw-to-ri-SA-da]
Disconnect switch	Interruptor [in-ter-rup-TOR], disyuntor [dis-yun-TOR], desconector [des-kon-ek-TOR]

Double insulated	Doble aislamiento [DO-ble ays-la-MYEN-to]
Dee (D) ring	Anillo en forma D [a-NI-yo en FOR-ma]
Dust	Polvo [POL-vo]
Dust mask	Máscara para el polvo [MAS-ka-ra PA-ra el POL-vo]
<b>E</b>	
Ear plugs	Tapones de oídos [ta-PON-es de OY-dos]
Electric cord	Cable eléctrico [KA-ble e-LEK-tri-ko]
Electrical shock	Choque eléctrico [CHO-ke e-LEK-tri-ko], sacudida eléctrica [sa-ku-DI-da e-LEK-tri-ko]
Electricity	Electricidad [e-lek-tri-si-DAD]
Electrocution	Electrocución [e-lek-tro-ku-SYON]
Employee	Empleado [em-ple-A-do], trabajador [tra-ba-ha-DOR], obrero [ob-re-ro]
Erection	Armar [ar-MAR], izar [i-ZAR], levantar [le-VAN-tar], construir [kon-STRUYR]
Excavation	Excavación [eks-ka-VA-syon]
Extension cord	Extensión eléctrica [eks-ten-SYON e-LEK-tri-ka], cordón de extensión [kor-DON de eks-ten-SYON]
<b>F</b>	
Face (of excavation)	Pared [PA-red], cara [KA-ra], lado [LA-do], talud [TA-lud]
Fall hazard	Riesgo de caída [RYES-go de KAI-da], peligro de caída [pe-LI-gro de KAI-da]
Fall protection	Protección contra caídas [pro-tek-SYON kon-tra KAI-das]
Fire alarm	Alarma de fuego [a-LAR-ma de FWE-go], alarma de incendio [a-LAR-ma de in-SEN-dyo]
Fire extinguisher	Extintor [eks-tin-tor], extinguidor de fuego [eks-tin-gi-DOR de FWE-go]
First aid	Primera ayuda [pri-ME-ra ai-U-da]
Flammable	Inflamable [in-fla-MA-ble]
Foot protection	Protección para pie [pro-tek-SYON PA-ra pye]
<b>G</b>	
Gasoline	Gasolina [gas-o-LI-na]
Ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)	Interruptor de circuito con pérdida a tierra [in-ter-rup-TOR de sir-KI-to kon PER-di-da a TYER-ra] , interruptor a tierra / fallo [in-ter-rup-TOR a TYER-ra / FA-yo]
Guard	Guarda [WAR-da], resguardo [res-WAR-do]
Guardrail system	Sistema de barandas [sis-TE-ma de bar-AN-das]
<b>H</b>	

Helmet	Casco [KAS-ko]
Hole	Hueco [WE-ko]
<b>I</b>	
Inch	Pulgada [pul-GA-da]
Inhalation	Inhalar [in-al-AR], aspirar [as-pir-AR]
Insulation	Aislamiento [ais-la-MYEN-to]
<b>L</b>	
Label	Etiqueta [e-ti-KE-ta]
Ladder	Escalera portátil [es-ka-LE-ra por-TA-til], escala [es-KA-la]
Lanyard	Cuerda de seguridad [KWER-da de se-gu-ri-DAD], cordón [kor-DON], pila [PI-la]
Life jacket	Chaleco salvavidas [cha-LE-ko sal-va-VI-das]
Lifeline	Cuerda salvavidas [KWER-da sal-va-VI-das], cuerda de seguridad [KWER-da de se-gu-ri-DAD]
Lockout/tagout	Interrupción de energía usando candado y etiqueta [in-ter-rup-SYON de en-er-HI-a us-AN-do kan-DA-do i e-ti-KE-ta]
<b>M</b>	
Manhole	Registro [re-HIS-tro]
Masonry	Albañilería [al-ban-yi-le-RI-a], mampostería [mam-pos-te-RI-a]
Means of egress	Modo de salida [MO-do de sa-LI-da]
Measuring tape	Cinta para medir [SIN-ta PA-ra ME-dir], cinta metro [SIN-ta ME-tro]
Meter	Metro [ME-tro]
Motor vehicle	Vehículo de motor [ve-I-ku-lo de MO-tor]
<b>N</b>	
Noise	Ruido [RWI-do]
<b>O</b>	
Opening	Abertura [a-ber-TUR-a], apertura [a-per-TUR-a]
Outlet	Tomacorriente [to-ma-kor-RYEN-te], receptáculo [re-sep-TA-ku-lo]
Oxygen	Oxígeno [ok-SI-he-no]
Oxygen deficient	Deficiente en oxígeno [de-fi-SEN-te de ok-SI-he-no], nivel bajo de oxígeno [ni-VEL BA-ho de ok-SI-he-no]
<b>P</b>	
Permit required	Permiso requerido [per-MI-so re-ke-RI-do]
Personal protective equipment	Equipo de protección personal [e-KI-po de pro-tek-SYON per-son-AL]

Plank (board)	Tablón [tab-LON], tabla [TAB-la]
Platform	Plataforma [plat-FOR-ma]
Plumbing	Plomería [plo-me-RI-a]
Plywood	Madera contrachapada [ma-DE-ra kon-tra-cha-PA-da], madera laminada [ma-DE-ra la-mi-NA-da], madera fabricada [ma-DE-ra fab-ri-KA-da]
Powered industrial truck	Camión industrial [kam-YON in-dus-TRYAL]
Pressure	Presión [pre-SYON]
Propane	Propano [pro-PA-no]
<b>Q</b>	
Qualified person	Persona cualificada [per-SO-na kwa-li-fi-CA-da]
<b>R</b>	
Ready-mix truck	Camión de premezclado [kam-YON de pre-mes-KLA-do], mezcla-lista [MES-kla LIS-ta]
Rebar (Reinforcing steel)	Acero de refuerzo [a-SER-o de re-FWER-so]
Rescue	Salvar [sal-VAR], rescatar [res-ca-TAR]
Respirator (mask)	Máscara respiradora [MAS-ka-ra res-pir-a-DO-ra]
Reverse signal alarm	Alarma de retroceso [a-LAR-ma de re-tro-SE-so]
<b>S</b>	
Safety belt	Cinturón de seguridad [sin-tur-ON de se-gur-i-DAD]
Safety equipment	Equipo de seguridad [e-KI-po de se-gur-i-DAD]
Safety glasses	Lentes de seguridad [LEN-tes de se-gur-i-DAD], gafas [GA-fas], anteojos [an-te-O-hos]
Safety harness	Asperas de seguridad [as-PER-as de se-gur-i-DAD], arnés de seguridad [ar-NES de se-gur-i-DAD]
Safety net	Malla de seguridad [MA-ya de se-gur-i-DAD], red de seguridad [red de se-gur-i-DAD]
Scaffold	Andamio [an-DA-myó]
Seat belts	Cinturón de seguridad [sin-tur-ON de se-gur-i-DAD]
Silica	Sílice [SIL-i-se], sílica [SI-li-ka]
Slope (or) hill	Pendiente [pen-DYEN-te], inclinación [in-klin-a-SYON], cuesta [KWES-ta]
Soil	Suelo [SWE-lo], terreno [ter-RE-no], tierra [TYER-ra]
Splice (to)	Empalmar [em-pal-MAR]
Square	Cuadrado [kwa-DRA-do]
Steel	Hierro [YER-ro], acero [a-SER-o]

Steel construction	Construcción en acero [kon-struk-SYON en a-SER-o]
Struck-by	Golpeado [gol-pe-A-do], impactado [im-pak-TA-do]
<b>T</b>	
Tagout	Interrupción de energía usando etiqueta [in-ter-rup-SYON de en-er-HI-a us-an-DO e-ti-KE-ta]
Tape (electrical)	Esparadrapo [es-pa-ra-DRA-po]
Tie-off	Amarre, amarrarse [a-MAR-re], conectase [ko-nek-TA-se]
Tool	Herramienta [er-ra-MYEN-ta]
Toolbox	Caja de herramientas [KA-ha de er-ra-MYEN-tas]
Trench	Trinchera [trin-CHE-ra], zanja [SAN-ha], excavación [eks-ka-va-SYON]
Trench box	Caja de trinchera [KA-ha de trin-CHE-ra], mula [MU-la]
<b>U</b>	
Unprotected side	Lado expuesto [LA-do eks-PWES-to], lado descubierto [LA-do des-ku-BYER-to]
Unprotected edge	Borde expuesto [BOR-de eks-PWES-to], borde descubierto [BOR-de des-ku-BYER-to]
<b>V</b>	
Vest	Chaleco [cha-LE-ko]
Voltage	Voltaje [vol-TA-he]
<b>W</b>	
Warning	Precaución [pre-kauw-SYON]
Warning signs	Avisos de precaución [a-VI-sos de pre-kauw-SYON]
Wheelbarrow	Carretilla [kar-re-TI-ya]
Working load	Carga [KAR-ga]
<b>Y</b>	
Yard	Yarda [YAR-da]