



Caltrans Local Assistance

RESIDENT ENGINEER ACADEMY

Module 6

Legal Relations & Responsibility to the Public

January 2026

Legal Relations - Objectives

Be able to...

- List laws, regulations, orders and decrees to which the Contractor must comply
- Understand the Contractor's obligation to minimize inconvenience to the public or property owners
- Enforce public safety requirements

Legal Relations & Responsibility to the Public: Laws

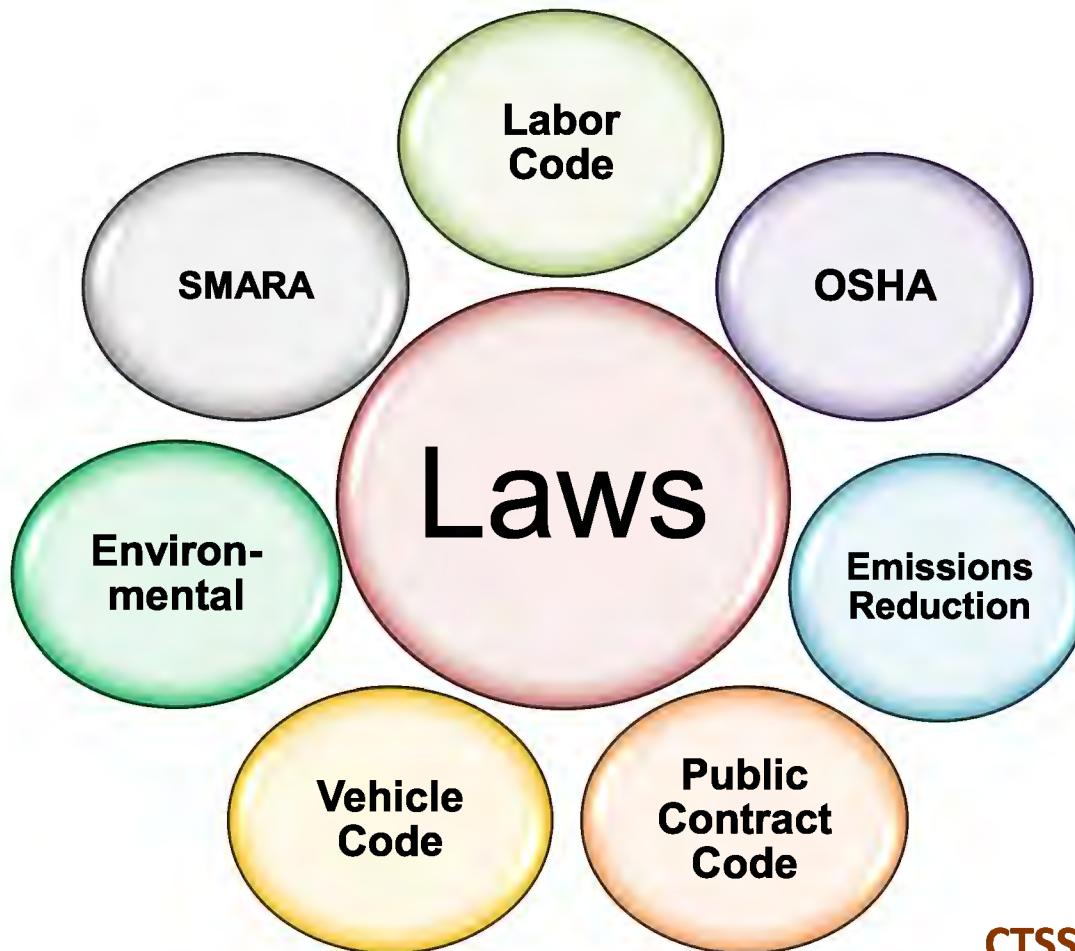
Contractor must comply with...

- All Laws
- Regulations
- Orders or
- Decrees Applicable to the Project

CTSS 7-1.02, Laws

Green Book 5-1, Laws and Regulations

Laws



CTSS 7-1.02, Laws

Green Book 5-1, Laws and Regulations

Laws

Example: **Vehicle Code**

Contractor must comply with size and weight limitations on...

- Treated base or pavement *under construction*
- Completed or existing:
 - Base
 - Pavement
 - Structures
- Culverts and pipes

**CTSS 5-1.37B, Load Limits
CM 3-701C, Laws to Be Observed
CVC Section 35550-35558**

Laws

Example: Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSH Act - 1970)/Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Contractor must
 - Comply with Federal, State, and local health, safety and sanitary laws
 - Provide and follow a company Code of Safe Practices
- RE must
 - Enforce
 - Report serious violations to Cal/OSHA
 - Cooperate with investigations

**CTSS 7-1.02K(6) Occupational Safety
and Health Standards**
Green Book 5-7.1, Work Site Safety

Laws

Example of some Cal/OSHA Regulations



Title 8 California Code of Regulations (T8 CCR)/Pocket Guide

Public Convenience

Contractor must *schedule* and *conduct* work to *avoid unnecessary inconvenience* to the public and abutting property owners.

**Maintain access
to driveways,
houses,
businesses**

**Provide smooth
surface**

**Prevent or alleviate
dust**

**Provide signs
and flaggers as
necessary**

Repair damage

CTSS 7-1.03, Public Convenience

CM 3-702, Public Convenience

Green Book 5-7, Safety

Green Book 302-10.4, Public Convenience and Traffic Control

Public Safety

Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) Plan:

- *Required* for each Federal-aid project
- Before work begins, TTC plans must be approved by the Engineer or the Engineer's designee of the public agency
 - A. TTC Plan in PS&E, or
 - B. Provisions that allow the contractor to develop/modify the TTC Plan

**LAPM 16.15 Traffic Safety in Highway
and Street Work Zones**

**CA MUTCD, Part 6 Temporary Traffic Control
Greenbook 5-7, Safety**

Public Safety

Local Agency designates a TTC Plan and safety person:

- Ensure implementation
- Require revisions as necessary

LAPM 16.15 Traffic Safety in Highway and Street Work Zones

Public Safety

The contractor is responsible to provide for public safety.

- Keep existing signals and lighting in operation
- Enter and leave highway safely
- Remove hauling spillage/control dust
- Use TTC devices that comply with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices ([MUTCD](#))
- Provide flagging as necessary



CTSS 7-1.04, Public Safety
CM 3-703, Public Safety
Green Book 5-7, Safety

Legal Relations & Responsibility

Remember...

- The Contractor must comply with all laws, regulations, orders, and decrees.
- The Contractor is obligated to minimize inconvenience to the public or property owners.
- Public safety requirements are to be enforced.