Daily Excavation Inspection Checklist

SHIELD CERTIFICATES
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A before-entry inspection template matching OSHA 1926.651-652's competent-person requirement — covering soil classification, protective systems, access, and surface conditions.

Site/Excavation ID: _____ **Date:** _____ **Inspector Signature:** _____

Soil & Protective System

- ☐ Competent person has classified the soil (Type A, B, or C)
- ☐ Protective system (sloping, benching, shoring, or shielding) matches the soil classification and depth
- ☐ No tension cracks, bulging, or undercutting visible in the trench walls
- ☐ Trench box, if used, is rated for the depth and has not been field-modified

Access & Egress

- ☐ Ladder, ramp, or stairway provided within 25 feet of every worker in trenches 4 feet or deeper
- ☐ Egress device extends at least 3 feet above the trench edge

Surface Conditions

- ☐ Spoil piles and other materials kept at least 2 feet back from the trench edge
- ☐ Surface encumbrances (rocks, debris) removed or supported near the edge
- ☐ No vehicles or equipment operating closer to the edge than the trench depth without additional precautions

Utilities & Hazards

- ☐ Underground utility locations identified and marked before digging began
- ☐ Atmospheric testing completed if the excavation is 4 feet or deeper and could contain a hazardous atmosphere
- ☐ Water accumulation controlled or removed before entry

Re-Inspection Triggers

- ☐ Trench re-inspected after any rainstorm or other event that could increase hazards
- ☐ Re-inspected after any vibration source (nearby traffic, equipment) starts operating nearby

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