

# Volvo Construction Equipment: Managing a Plant Closure (A)

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## WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The term educational facilities refers to all physical properties of a school, university or college - buildings, and their contents, including furniture, grounds and sports facilities. The term is also used to describe physical, cultural and other facilities in an educational institution. The term is also used to describe the physical and cultural facilities of a school, university or college and its contents, including buildings, grounds and sports facilities.

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## What is Ergonomics?

Ergonomics is the process of designing or arranging workplaces, products and systems so that they fit the people who use them.

Most people have heard of ergonomics and think it is something to do with seating or with the design of car controls and instruments – and it is, but it is so much more. Ergonomics applies to the design of everything that involves people – workplaces, sports and leisure, health and safety.

Ergonomics (or human factors, which is related to its Greek derivation) is a branch of science that aims to learn about human abilities and limitations, and then apply this learning to improve people's interaction with products, systems and environments.

Ergonomics aims to improve workplaces and environments to minimise risk of injury or harm. So as technology changes, so too does the need to ensure that the tools we access for work, recreation, play are designed for our body's requirements.

## Why is Ergonomics important?

**The workplace:** According to Safe Work Australia, the total economic cost of work-related injuries and illnesses is estimated to be \$2.6 billion dollars. Recent research has shown that low back pain is the world's most common work-related disability – affecting employees from offices, hospitals and in the highest risk category, agriculture.

Ergonomics aims to create safe, comfortable and productive workplaces by bringing human abilities and limitations into the design of the workplace, including the individual's body size, strength, skill, speed, sensory abilities (vision, hearing, and even attitudes).

**The ageing population:** The number of people in Australia aged 65 and over is forecast to double over the next 50 years. With this, retirement services and pensions will need to be designed to accommodate the increasing needs of the ageing population, applying to public transport, building facilities, and living spaces.

## How does ergonomics work?

Ergonomics is a relatively new branch of science which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1999, but has an research carried out in many other older, established scientific areas, such as engineering, anthropology and psychology.

To achieve best practice design, ergonomists use the data and techniques of several disciplines:

- anthropometry: body size, shapes, populations and variations
- biomechanics: muscles, levers, forces, strength
- environmental physics: noise, light, heat, cold, radiation, vibration body systems: hearing, vision, sensation
- applied psychology: skill, learning, errors, differences
- social psychology: groups, communication, learning, behaviours.

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**SCHOOL MAPPING PROCESSES:** Specific Areas for Expansion: The process of school mapping covers the following specific areas for expansion and improvement of facilities: (rationalization of existing facilities by relocating existing schools and determining its vulnerability (various geological and hydro-meteorological hazards); new schools must be located outside areas already identified to be within hazard zones (Niño Roks, PAGASA); shifting, closure, or amalgamation/integration of institutions; and optimum utilization of buildings, equipments, furniture, etc.

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**B. IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES** • Educational facilities are considered indispensable to a school; they do not only provide housing for the school • but also serve as facilitating agents for all the educational activities that take place in a school. • The availability of safe, secured and satisfactory educational facilities (i.e., site, building, furniture, and equipment) • is one of the prerequisites for the opening of a new school. Sites should be assessed in terms of its vulnerability to various • geological and hydro meteorological hazards. Hazard-specific resilient features that have undergone thorough feasibility • and viability studies must be incorporated in the design of the buildings or structures (Niño Relox, PAGASA). • Conversely, one of the grounds for the closure of a school is substandard facilities (i.e., lack safe, sanitary, and • adequate buildings and site). • The availability of safe, secured, adequate and satisfactory educational facilities will support the teaching and • learning processes and ultimately improve the quality of basic education.

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*OVERVIEW • An effective school facility is responsive to the changing programs of educational delivery, and at a minimum should provide a physical environment that is comfortable, safe, secure, accessible, well illuminated, well ventilated, and aesthetically pleasing. The school facility consists of not only the physical structure and the variety of building systems, such as mechanical, plumbing, electrical and power, telecommunications, security, and fire suppression systems. The facility also includes furnishings, materials and supplies, equipment and information technology, as well as various aspects of the building grounds, namely, athletic fields, playgrounds, areas for outdoor learning, and vehicular access and parking.*

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*SCHOOL MAPPING School Mapping is a dynamic process of planning the distribution, size and spacing of schools and physical facilities requirements for optimum utilization and benefit. It is a process of identifying current inadequacies in distribution and of providing appropriate types and patterns of school plant. It is a continuous process involving the uninterrupted recording of basic information required for analysis of the school map at any given point in time.*

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1. SCHOOL MAPPING PROCESSa. *Specific Areas for Expansion*  
The process of school mapping covers the following specific areas for expansion and improvement of facilities (1) Rationalization of existing facilities by:

- locating existing schools and determining its vulnerability to various geological and hydro meteorological hazards;
- new schools must be located outside areas already identified to be within hazard zones (Niño Relax, PAGASA);
- shifting, closure, or amalgamation/ integration of institutions; and
- optimum utilization of buildings, equipments, furniture, etc.



1. SCHOOL MAPPING PROCESSa. (2) provision of new or additional facilities by:

- opening of new schools or upgrading existing ones;
- providing additional teaching and non-teaching staff; and
- providing new or additional buildings, furniture and equipment in institutions, etc.

Before starting the exercise of school mapping, it is essential that the norms and standards for provision and maintenance of educational services are clearly laid down by the higher authorities.

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