

## The competent person

A competent person is a company employee who:

- Is trained in and capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous.
- Is responsible for performing the soil classification analysis.
- Has the authority to take prompt corrective measure to eliminate any hazards.
- May be responsible for coordination and direction of emergency response.
- Must inspect the excavation and adjacent areas at least once a day for possible cave-ins, failures of protective systems and equipment, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions.

## Soil classification

Before you can work in an excavation, the soil type must be determined. The soil must be classified as: stable rock, type A, type B, or type C soil. It is not uncommon to find a combination of



soil types at an excavation site. Soil classification is used to determine the need for a protective system.

The definitions of the different soil types are:

**Stable rock** — Natural solid mineral material that can be excavated with vertical sides and will remain intact while exposed.