

Biohazard Diving Risk Assessment

Business Name:	ABN:	
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THIS PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

RISK MATRIX									
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS	
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	Elimination Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			Substitution Replace the hazard.	
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			Isolation Isolate People from the hazard	
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE			Engineering Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH			Administrative Change	
						1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	PPE	
Risk Rating & Required Action:								Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:	
4A		Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required.						Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:	
3H		Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.						1. Eliminate	
2M		Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.						2. Substitute	
1L		Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.						3. Isolate	
Consequence Scale:								4. Engineering	
Consequence		People (injury/illness)		Project / Assets		Compliance / Reputation		5. Administrative	
Catastrophic		Fatality or permanent total disability		project shutdown		Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution		6. PPE	
Major		Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)		critical delay		Improvement notice; major media coverage		Always document why a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.	
Moderate		Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day		moderate delay		Minor breach; adverse client comment		aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.	
Minor		First-aid only, no lost time		negligible delay		Isolated non-conformance			
Insignificant		No injury		no schedule impact		Deviation caught and corrected on site			

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Slip, trip and fall, Inadequate equipment inspection	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct pre-dive briefing - Inspect all equipment thoroughly - Ensure dive site is clean and free from obstacles - Review and comply with safety protocols - Ensure team members are properly trained - Check communication equipment for functionality - Prepare emergency response plan - Verify correct signage is displayed - Ensure first aid kit is stocked and accessible - Conduct risk assessment of the dive site 	2M
2. Travel to Dive Site	Vehicle accident, Transport of hazardous materials	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use qualified and experienced drivers - Securely store equipment during transit - Limit transportation of hazardous materials - Conduct vehicle maintenance checks - Carry emergency contact information - Use seatbelts at all times - Avoid driving in hazardous weather conditions - Use appropriate signage on vehicle - Carry spill kits for hazardous materials - Limit driver fatigue with shift rotations 	2M
3. Equipment Setup	Equipment malfunction, Incorrect setup	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow manufacturer's setup instructions - Use equipment checklists during setup - Conduct equipment tests before use - Ensure backup equipment is available - Verify proper calibration of instruments - Train team in equipment setup - Use peer checks for setup verification - Store equipment safely after setup 	2M

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			- Report and replace faulty equipment - Use only certified equipment	
4. Entry into Water	Drowning, Hypothermia	3H	1. Use a buddy system. 2. Wear a life preserver or flotation device. 3. Wear a wetsuit or dry suit. 4. Limit time in the water. 5. Have a rescue plan. 6. Use a whistle or other signaling device. 7. Avoid alcohol and drugs. 8. Check weather and water conditions. 9. Use proper entry technique. 10. Stay close to the boat or shore.	1L
5. Descent	Pressure-related injuries, Loss of buoyancy control	3H	1. Receive proper training. 2. Use proper descent technique. 3. Descend slowly and evenly. 4. Monitor for symptoms of pressure injury. 5. Use a weight belt or lead. 6. Breathe normally. 7. Avoid holding your breath. 8. Ascend if you experience symptoms. 9. Use a dive computer. 10. Stay within your limits.	2M
6. Interaction with Flora and Fauna	Bites and stings, Cuts and abrasions	2M	1. Avoid touching or disturbing plants and animals. 2. Wear protective clothing. 3. Use proper handling techniques. 4. Avoid reaching into holes or crevices. 5. Use a net or other tool to handle specimens. 6. Wash hands after handling. 7. Report any incidents. 8. Seek medical attention if needed.	1L

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7. Underwater Work	Entanglement, Equipment damage	3H		2M
8. Handling Biohazards	Infectious exposure, Chemical exposure	4A		2M
9. Ascent	Decompression sickness, Barotrauma	4A		2M

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10. Exit from Water	Slip at surface, Exhaustion	3H		2M
11. Equipment Retrieval	Strain injuries, Equipment damage	2M		1L
12. Decontamination	Chemical burns, Infectious exposure	4A		2M

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13. Post-Dive Briefing	Miscommunication, Overlooking symptoms	2M		1L
14. Final Equipment Check	Missed faults, Inadequate	3H		2M
15. Incident Reporting	Incomplete reports, Delayed reporting	2M		1L

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16. Dive Team Training	Insufficient skill level, Incomplete knowledge	4A		2M
17. Communication Protocols	Signal loss, Misunderstanding signals	3H		1L
18. Environmental Monitoring	Changing weather conditions, Poor visibility	3H		2M

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19. Health Monitoring	Undiagnosed health issues, Dehydration	4A		2M
20. Dive Termination Decision	Delayed response, Incorrect decision-making	3H		1L

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.