

Conducting Regular Tow Equipment Checks Risk Assessment

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

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THE 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 | | | Elimination Remove the hazard. |
| LIKELY | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 4A ACUTE | DO NOT PROCEED | Substitution Replace the hazard. |
| POSSIBLE | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 3H HIGH | Review before work starts. | Isolation Isolate People from the hazard |
| UNLIKELY | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 2M MODERATE | Ensure control measures in place. | Engineering Isolate the hazard |
| RARE | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | 1L LOW | Monitor and keep records. | Administrative Change |
| | | | | | | | | PPE |

Risk Rating & Required Action:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 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. |
| 3H | Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed. |
| 2M | Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions. |
| 1L | Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records. |

Consequence Scale:

| Consequence | People (injury/illness) | Project / Assets | Compliance / Reputation |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Catastrophic | Fatality or permanent total disability | project shutdown | Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution |
| Major | Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days) | critical delay | Improvement notice; major media coverage |
| Moderate | Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day | moderate delay | Minor breach; adverse client comment |
| Minor | First-aid only, no lost time | negligible delay | Isolated non-conformance |
| Insignificant | No injury | no schedule impact | Deviation caught and corrected on site |

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:

Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. **Substitute**
3. **Isolate**
4. **Engineering**
5. **Administrative**
6. **PPE**

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.

| 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 | lack of knowledge of equipment, inadequate tools | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all personnel are trained in the use of tow equipment. - Check and confirm the availability of the correct and adequate tools for the task. - Develop and follow a pre-checklist before starting the inspection. - Review the tow equipment operator manual thoroughly. - Conduct equipment orientation sessions for new staff. - Schedule refresher training sessions for all staff periodically. - Ensure all safety devices and personal protective equipment (PPE) are available. - Confirm with the supervisor before beginning any checks. - Record all preparation steps completed in a log book. - Establish a safe first approach before commencing any task. | 2M |
| 2. Visual Inspection of Equipment | missing components, physical damage | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a detailed visual inspection following the manufacturer's guidelines. - Create a checklist to ensure all parts are reviewed. - Ensure the integrity of all components by checking for visible signs of wear and tear. - Mark any damaged components with high visibility tags. - Use a torch for better visibility in low-light conditions. - Immediately report any missing or damaged components to a supervisor. - Place out of service tags on faulty equipment. - Keep an inventory of spare parts to facilitate quick replacements. - Validate that safety guards and protective covers are in place. - Routinely update visual inspection procedures to incorporate new safety standards. | 2M |
| 3. Functional Test | equipment malfunction, unexpected behaviour | 4A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Test the equipment as per the manufacturer's guidelines prior to use. - Ensure testing personnel are competent and familiar with the machinery. - Initiate testing in a controlled environment to minimise risks to others. - Have an emergency shutdown procedure in place during testing. - Clearly communicate testing procedures to all involved staff. - Inspect the area around the equipment for any potential hazards. - Confirm the performance of all safety signals and alarms. - Keep a record of all functional tests conducted and results obtained. | 2M |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform regular audits of testing processes and outcomes. - Immediately rectify any malfunctions identified during testing. | |
| 4. Verify Safety Features | non-functional safety alarms, improperly set safety guards | 4A | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 1L |
| 5. Torque and Tension Checks | inadequate torque, excessive tension | 3H | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 2M |
| 6. Hydraulic System Inspection | leaks, pressure imbalances | 3H | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 2M |

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| | | | | |
| 7. Electrical System Check | exposed wiring, faulty circuitry | 4A | | 1L |
| 8. Braking System Evaluation | brake failure, worn components | 3H | | 2M |

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| | | | | |
| 9. Record Keeping | incomplete records, loss of inspection history | 2M | | 1L |
| 10. Review and Reporting | failure to report, misinterpretation of data | 2M | | 1L |
| 11. Maintenance Scheduling | overdue maintenance, insufficient time allocated | 3H | | 2M |

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| | | | | |
| 12. Loading and Unloading Checks | imbalance, incorrect securing of loads | 4A | | 2M |
| 13. Signage and Communication | inadequate warnings, poor communication | 3H | | 1L |

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| | | | | |
| 14. Performance Review | inconsistent evaluations, bias | 2M | | 1L |
| 15. Continuous Improvement | resistance to change, outdated procedures | 3H | | 1L |

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| 16. Emergency Preparedness | lack of readiness, inadequate emergency plans | 4A | [REDACTED] | 2M |
| 17. Equipment Decommissioning | environmental damage, equipment misplacement | 3H | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 18. Final Review and Sign-off | overlooked issues, incomplete documentation | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |

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SAMPLE

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.