

Filling Or Backfilling Trenches Risk Assessment

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

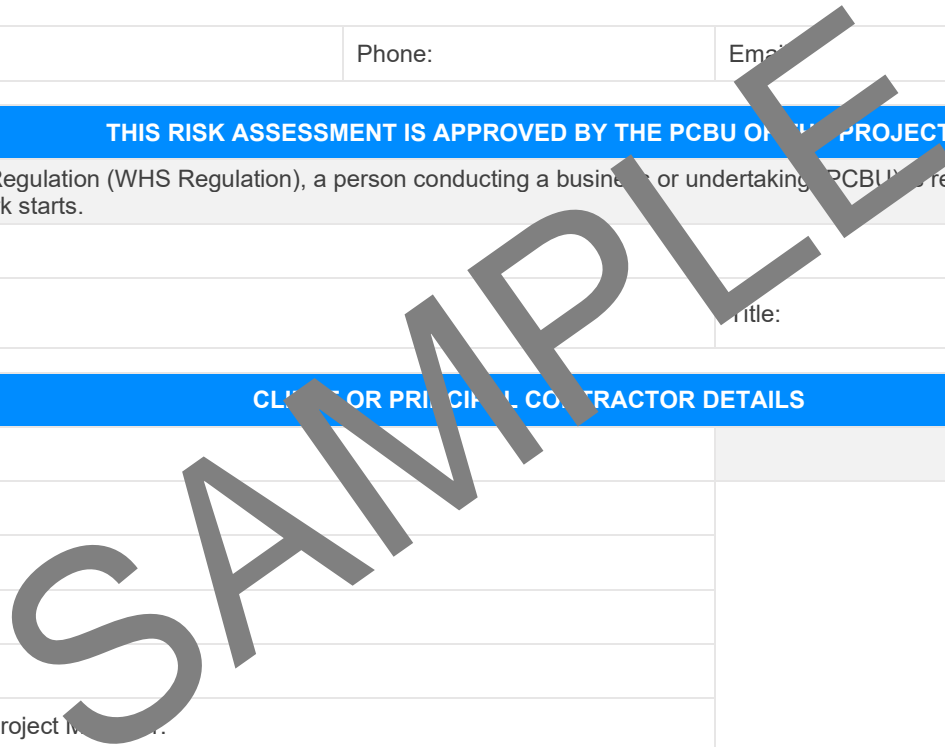
THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU ON THIS PROJECT

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 | | | 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 training, Incorrect PPE | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct pre-start training and briefings - Ensure all personnel are familiar with the task - Provide the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) - Encourage a safety-first mindset among workers - Develop a work method statement specific to trench activities - Set up exclusion zones around the work area - Post appropriate safety signs in clear view of the team - Arrange for first aid resources on site - Ensure emergency contacts are listed and accessible - Confirm communication devices are working | 2M |
| 2. Check Equipment | Faulty machinery, Improper maintenance | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspect all equipment before use - Verify the machinery log for regular maintenance - Ensure operators have valid certification - Conduct a pre-start check on all machinery - Use exclusion zones to mitigate risk from equipment failure - Replace any faulty equipment immediately - Have a mechanic available to address issues promptly - Maintain records of inspections and maintenance - Follow manufacturer's guidelines for operation - Use guardrails and safety barriers where necessary | 1L |
| 3. Set Up Site | Poor site conditions, Inadequate signage | 4A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear the site of any debris or obstructions - Level the ground as much as possible - Install clear signage to indicate the work zone - Use barriers to define work zones - Ensure proper lighting if working in dim areas - Implement dual sign-offs for site setup verification - Use GPS marking systems to define and monitor the boundaries - Organize the site layout to enhance workflow efficiency | 2M |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place safety cones and high-visibility tape around the perimeter - Review setup against compliance checklists | |
| 4. Excavate Trench | Cave-ins, Falling into trench | 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> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 2M |
| 5. Install Shoring | Incorrect shoring, Shoring collapse | 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> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 1L |
| 6. Lay Pipes/Cables | Struck by moving pipes, Material defects | 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> | 1L |

SAMPLE

| 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 |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 7. Backfilling | Dust from soil, Struck by machinery | 3H | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 8. Compacting Soil | Noise exposure, Vibration injuries | 3H | [REDACTED] | 2M |
| 9. Site Cleanup | Slips and trips, Remnant debris | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |

SAMPLE

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| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 10. Final Inspection | Missed hazards, Non-compliance issues | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 11. Emergency Response | Inadequate response procedures Delayed reaction | 3H | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 12. Community Safety | Uncontrolled access, Public interference | 4A | [REDACTED] | 2M |

SAMPLE

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| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 13. Traffic Management | Vehicle collision, Traffic congestion | 4A | [REDACTED] | 2M |
| 14. Environmental Protection | Soil contamination, Noise pollution | 3H | [REDACTED] | 2M |
| 15. Review and Feedback | Inadequate review processes, Lack of improvement | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |

SAMPLE

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| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |

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 FOR 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-of-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/work-places-and-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>

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/work-places/codes-of-practice#COPs>

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

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.

