

## Plastic Strimmers Use 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			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> 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.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	<b>Administrative</b> Change	
								<b>PPE</b>	

### 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	Uninformed operators, Lack of equipment inspection	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure all operators have been trained on equipment use</li> <li>- Conduct a pre-use inspection of trimmers</li> <li>- Verify all safety guards are in place</li> <li>- Confirm appropriate PPE is available and worn (e.g. safety boots, goggles)</li> <li>- Ensure area is clear of non-essential personnel</li> <li>- Check that equipment is maintained as per manufacturer guidelines</li> <li>- Verify that weather conditions are suitable for operation</li> <li>- Review risk assessment before starting work</li> <li>- Clear marking of work area</li> <li>- Ensure first aid kit readily available</li> </ul>	2M
2. Equipment Start-up	Fire hazard, Mechanical failure	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start equipment following manufacturer instructions</li> <li>- Ensure fuel containers are properly sealed and stored away</li> <li>- Use appropriate fire extinguishers nearby</li> <li>- Inspect equipment for mechanical defects before starting</li> <li>- Listen for unusual noises indicating mechanical issues</li> <li>- Ensure equipment has cooled down before refueling</li> <li>- Use trimmers within rated capacity only</li> <li>- Confirm correct handling of equipment by operators</li> <li>- Train on proper emergency stop procedures</li> <li>- Maintain regular servicing and reporting of equipment malfunctions</li> </ul>	1L
3. Regular Operation	Ejection of debris, Operator fatigue	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain a safe distance from other workers and bystanders</li> <li>- Use a face shield or goggles to protect eyes from debris</li> <li>- Take regular breaks during operation to prevent fatigue</li> <li>- Communicate with team members about nearby activity</li> <li>- Inspect cutting area for hidden objects before use</li> <li>- Keep two hands on equipment for better control</li> <li>- Restrict operation during adverse weather conditions</li> <li>- Utilise sunscreen to prevent UV exposure</li> </ul>	2M

Incident	Duration	Consequences
Fire, Fuel spillage	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fire started in engine compartment</li> <li>2. Fuel spilled from tank</li> <li>3. Fire spread to fuel tank</li> <li>4. Fire spread to engine compartment</li> <li>5. Fire spread to fuel tank</li> <li>6. Fire spread to engine compartment</li> <li>7. Fire spread to fuel tank</li> <li>8. Fire spread to engine compartment</li> <li>9. Fire spread to fuel tank</li> <li>10. Fire spread to engine compartment</li> </ul>
Engine failure, Inadequate	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engine failure</li> <li>2. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>3. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>4. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>5. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>6. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>7. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>8. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>9. Inadequate fuel supply</li> <li>10. Inadequate fuel supply</li> </ul>

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7. Storage Management	Unauthorized access, Poor storage conditions	2M		1L
8. Inspections and Maintenance	Inadequate maintenance, Poor wear and tear	3H		1L
9. Secure Transport	Load instability, Road accidents	2M		1L

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10. Training and Competency	Insufficient skill, Improper handling	3H		2M
11. PPE Management	Improper PPE use, PPE failure	3H		1L
12. Noise Management	Hearing damage, Communication barriers	3H		2M

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13. Vibration Management	Hand-arm vibration syndrome, Equipment degradation	3H		2M
14. Environmental Control	Pollution, Soil contamination	3H		2M
15. Debrief and Reporting	Incomplete records, Missed performance insights	2M		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>

### 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>

### 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>

### 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.

### 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>

### 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>

### 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