Brick And Block Laying

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

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF 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:

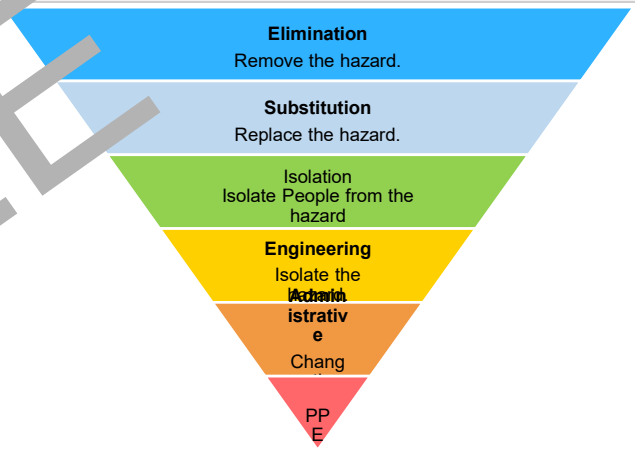
CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

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
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Rev before work
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACU	2M MO RATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 H	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS



Risk Rating & Required Action:

4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. E inate the hazar redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or hi er-level authorisati is required.
3H	Review and approve additional c rols b ask arts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in ace and effe ive. 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. WHS Management, Governance and Legal Compliance	• Absence of a documented WHS Management System specific to brick and block laying, leading to inconsistent safety practices across projects • Failure to align policies and procedures with WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Codes of Practice (e.g. construction work, hazardous manual tasks, noise, managing risks of falls) • Inadequate allocation of WHS responsibilities between PCBU, officers, site supervisors and subcontract bricklaying crews • Insufficient consultation, cooperation and coordination between principal contractor, bricklaying subcontractors and other trades sharing the workplace • Lack of formal risk management process for brick and block laying hazards such as core filled block work, block splitting, brick saw use, masonry cleaning and Hebel construction • Poor change management when introducing new products (e.g. Hebel systems), methods or equipment resulting in unmanaged system risks • Failure to review and update WHS documents after incidents, regulatory changes or lessons learned	High	• Develop and implement a documented WHS Management System that clearly addresses brick and block laying activities including core filled blocks, Hebel construction, masonry cutting and cleaning, and associated manual handling and crushing hazards • Ensure all WHS policies and procedures are reviewed by a competent WHS professional to confirm consistency with the WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Australian Standards and Codes of Practice • Define and document WHS roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for officers, project managers, site supervisors, leading hands and subcontract bricklaying companies, and communicate these during inductions and pre-start meetings • Implement a structured consultation process (e.g. regular toolbox talks, safety committee meetings) that includes bricklayers, labourers, apprentices and subcontractors, with records of issues raised and actions taken • Adopt a formal risk management procedure (identify, assess, control, review) for all brick and block laying tasks, supported by standardised risk assessment and SWMS templates • Implement a documented change management process for new materials, equipment (e.g. new brick saw), construction methods or products (e.g. alternative masonry systems), including pre-implementation risk assessments and training • Establish a document and version control system for all WHS procedures, SWMS, risk assessments and safety plans, including scheduled periodic reviews and sign-off by management • Undertake periodic compliance audits and inspections focusing on brick and block laying risks (stability of brick stacks, use of brick grips, masonry cleaning methods, cutting systems, wall tie installation, damp course placement) • Ensure officers meet their due diligence obligations by receiving regular WHS performance reports and participating in field safety walks to verify system implementation	Medium
2. Planning, Design and Pre-Construction Coordination	• Insufficient design consideration for safe brick and block laying, including access for core filling, positioning of damp course, and installation of wall ties • Lack of early coordination with structural engineers and designers regarding safe construction sequencing of external leaf walls and Hebel systems • Inadequate planning of material delivery locations and lay-down areas leading to unstable brick stacks, poor access and increased crush injury risk	High	• Integrate WHS considerations into design reviews, ensuring brick and block wall systems, core filled blocks, Hebel panels and damp course details allow safe access and installation without improvised methods • Conduct pre-construction coordination meetings that include principal contractor, bricklaying subcontractor, engineer and scaffolder to agree on construction sequencing, access methods and loading capacities for materials on slabs and scaffolds • Develop a materials logistics plan specifying designated stable lay-down areas for bricks, blocks, Hebel units and mortar, including maximum stack heights, separation distances from edges and traffic routes • Review construction drawings for locations requiring working at heights (e.g. upper storey external leaf, parapets) and incorporate these into a working-at-heights plan and SWMS before work commences	Medium

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
	• No systematic review of drawings and specifications for buildability and safety implications (e.g. high level face brickwork, exposed brickwork needing additional cleaning) • Poor planning for working at heights for upper courses of brick and block walls, leading to last-minute and non-compliant access arrangements • Failure to identify environmental constraints (noise restrictions for brick saws, slurry and wash-water management from brick and masonry cleaning) • Inadequate consideration of interface risks between bricklaying crews and other trades operating near scaffolds, hoists and materials loading zones		• Plan and document safe systems for brick and block transport across the site (mechanical aids, cranes, telehandlers, brick cages, mortar bins) to minimise manual handling and crush risks • Develop project-specific environmental and WHS requirements for brick saw placement (noise, dust containment, water supply, slurry capture) and masonry cleaning (chemical selection, overspray controls, wastewater management) • Include interface risk management in the project WHS plan, addressing shared access ways, timing of works near scaffolds, and coordination with other contractors to avoid overloading or striking partially built walls • Ensure all planning outcomes are reflected in site-specific WHS documentation, including the Project WHS Plan, traffic management plan and relevant SWMS for brick and block laying	
3. Procurement of Materials, Plant and Equipment	• Procurement of substandard bricks, blocks or Hebel units with inconsistent dimensions or defects increasing breakage, cutting and manual handling effort • Ordering excessive quantities of bricks and blocks without considering available safe storage space, contributing to unstable stacks and crush injury risk • Sourcing brick grips, clamps and lifting attachments that are not rated or compatible with the specific masonry units, increasing risk of dropped loads • Procurement of brick saws, cutting equipment and dust control systems that lack appropriate guarding, water suppression or dust extraction to manage silica exposure • Selection of cleaning chemicals and masonry cleaning systems without assessing corrosiveness, fume generation and compatibility with surfaces and controls • Acquisition of wheelbarrows, trolleys and mechanical aids with poor	High	• Develop procurement specifications for bricks, blocks, Hebel and associated masonry products that reference relevant Australian Standards and quality criteria, minimising the need for excessive cutting and dressing • Establish purchasing procedures that require confirmation of adequate and safe storage capacity prior to large deliveries, including documented limits for stack sizes and locations • Specify only certified and rated brick grips, clamps and lifting devices, requiring supplier documentation of safe working load, compatibility and maintenance instructions • Include WHS performance criteria in procurement of brick saws and cutting equipment such as blade guarding, integrated water suppression, dust extraction capability, emergency stop features and noise levels • Implement a chemical procurement procedure that mandates Safety Data Sheets review and risk assessment before purchasing masonry cleaning agents, with preference for less hazardous alternatives where reasonably practicable • Standardise procurement of ergonomic manual handling aids (brick trolleys, pallet jacks, mechanical brick carriers, mortar tubs) and require assessment against manual task risk profiles • Require suppliers to provide operating instructions and training materials for all specialised equipment (brick saws, mechanical hoists for pallets, Hebel lifting devices) • Maintain a preferred supplier list vetted for compliance with WHS and quality requirements, and periodically review supplier performance (defects, incident reports, near misses involving supplied products)	Medium

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
	ergonomic design, increasing strain during transporting bricks and mortar • Failure to specify noise-reduced equipment or accessories, resulting in higher noise exposure from saws and mechanical plant			
4. Contractor and Worker Competency, Training and Licensing	• Engagement of bricklaying subcontractors without verification of competency, licences and WHS performance history • Insufficient training in safe systems of work for core filled block laying, Hebel construction, brick splitting or dressing, joint raking and masonry cleaning • Lack of formal competency in use of brick saws, including blade change procedures, dust controls and manual handling of heavy units during cutting • Inadequate instruction on safe stacking of bricks and blocks, leading to instabi and potential crush injuries from topple stacks • Poor understanding of use of brick grips, clamps a other specialised lifting tools, increas g dropped object risk • Limited training in recognising and controlling silica dust exposure from cutting, raking joints and cleanin masonry surfaces • Absence of induction on site-specific hazards such as external leaf wall stability, temporary bracing requirements and safe fixing of wall ties and damp course • No refreshers or verification of competency for long-serving workers who may rely on outdated or unsafe practices	Hi	[redacted]	Medium
5. Safe Work Procedures, SWMS and Work Method Standardisation	• Lack of documented safe work procedures or SWMS for systemic brick and block laying activities, leading to	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
	variable work practices between crews and projects • SWMS that focus only on basic bricklaying and fail to address specialised tasks such as core filling, Hebel installation, masonry cleaning, brick saw use and joint raking • Procedures that over-emphasise task steps without addressing underlying system controls such as supervision, permit systems, inspection regimes and emergency response • Inadequate consultation with bricklayers and labourers when developing procedures, resulting in documents that are impractical and routinely ignored • Failure to integrate requirements for safe stacking, storage and handling of bricks and blocks into documented methods, increasing risk of toppled stacks and crush injuries • No standard procedure governing maximum manual lift w[redacted]use of mechanical aids an[redacted]eam lifts for transporting bricks[redacted]locks and mortar • SWMS document[redacted]ewed o[redacted] updated when site conditions or construction sequences change		[redacted]	
6. Supervision, Coordination and Site Control	• Insufficient on-site supervision of bricklaying teams, allowing unsafe practices such as over-stacking bricks, improper use of brick grips and ad-hoc cutting or cleaning methods • Poor coordination between bricklayers, scaffolders and other trades leading to overloading of scaffolds with bricks and blocks or unsafe access to external leaf walls • Failure to enforce exclusion zones around areas where bricks and blocks are being loaded, stacked, split or	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
	transported, increasing risk of crush or struck-by injuries • Inadequate oversight of apprentices and inexperienced labourers during higher risk activities such as core filling, masonry dressing and joint raking at height • Lack of monitoring of brick saw and masonry cleaning operations, leading to uncontrolled dust, slurry and chemical exposure on shared work fronts • Supervisors not trained to recognise early signs of wall instability, improper wall tie fixing or incorrect damp course placement		[redacted]	
7. Material Handling, Storage and Logistics Systems	• Systemic failure to control how bricks, blocks and Hebel units are received, stacked and stored, leading to recurrent crush injuries from toppled stacks • Lack of standardised limits for stack heights, configuration and proximity to edges, traffic routes and excavations • Inadequate systems [redacted] use of mechanical handling equipment (forklifts, telehandlers, cranes) for lifting pallets and cages [redacted] • Absence of documented traffic management plans integrating delivery vehicles, mobile plant and pedestrian bricklaying crews • Over-reliance on manual handling for transporting bricks and mortar due to poor planning for mechanical aids • No procedure to manage partial pallets and loose bricks which are more prone to instability and spillage • Poor housekeeping systems leading to scattered bricks, offcuts and broken blocks in access ways, increasing slip, trip and knock-down hazards	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
8. Plant, Equipment and Maintenance Management	• Lack of systematic inspection and maintenance of brick saws, including guards, water suppression systems and electrical safety, leading to increased injury and silica exposure risks • Absence of scheduled maintenance for mechanical handling equipment used in brick and block transport, resulting in failures under load • Inadequate inspection and retirement criteria for brick grips, clamps, slings and lifting attachments, leading to use of damaged or unsuitable equipment • Poor management of hand tools used for block splitting, dressing, joint raking and cutting, increasing risk of hand and eye injuries • No system to verify that safety features such as emergency stops and lock-out devices on saws and hoists are functional • Uncontrolled modification or makeshift repairs to equipment used with masonry units, compromising design safety	High	[redacted]	Medium
9. Health Risk Management (Silica, Chemicals, Noise and Ergonomics)	• Chronic exposure to respirable crystalline silica from brick and block cutting, Hebel dressing, joint raking and masonry cleaning without adequate system controls • Use of masonry cleaning chemicals and acids without robust controls, resulting in inhalation of fumes, skin and eye burns and environmental contamination • Excessive noise exposure from brick saws and associated plant where no noise management plan is in place • Poorly designed manual handling systems leading to musculoskeletal disorders from repetitive handling of bricks, blocks, Hebel panels and mortar	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
	• Inadequate provision and management of personal protective equipment such as RPE, eye protection, gloves and hearing protection • Lack of health monitoring programs where required for workers significantly exposed to silica or hazardous chemicals		[redacted]	
10. Working at Heights, Scaffolding and Structural Stability Systems	• Systemic failure to ensure adequate and compliant work platforms and edge protection for upper level brick and block laying and face brickwork tasks • Poor control over loading of scaffolds and temporary platforms with bricks, blocks and mortar, leading to structural failure or collapse • Inadequate temporary bracing and tie-in systems for partially built external leaf walls and Hebel panels, resulting in wall collapse • Lack of standard procedures for installing wall ties and d[illegible]urse in a way that maintains s[illegible]ctural integrity during construction • Inadequate coord[illegible] scaffolders regarding placement of b[illegible]k stacks, movement of materials and alteration of scaffold components • Failure to integrate joint raking, brick cleaning and other follow-on tasks into the overall heights management system, leading to unsafe access improvisations	Hi[illegible]	[redacted]	Medium
11. Incident Reporting, Investigation and Corrective Action	• Under-reporting of incidents, near misses and hazards related to brick and block laying, including toppled stacks, dropped masonry units and equipment failures • Lack of structured incident investigation processes, leading to repeated systemic issues such as	Medium	[redacted]	Low

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
	unstable stacking or incorrect use of brick grips • Failure to identify root causes relating to management systems, focusing only on worker behaviour • Inadequate tracking and close-out of corrective actions arising from incidents, audits and inspections • Poor communication of lessons learned across different projects and bricklaying crews		[redacted]	
12. Monitoring, Audit and Continuous Improvement	• Absence of systematic monitoring of WHS performance for brick and block laying activities • Reliance on informal observations rather than structured inspections and audits • No clear performance indicators for ke system risks such as cr ries from toppled stacks, silica ontrols, or equipment mainte nce compliance • Failure to involve rke d subcontractors in reviewing the effectiveness of WHS systems and controls • Inadequate management review of WHS performance leading to outdated controls and stagnation of safety improvements	Medium	[redacted]	Low

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

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2025
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

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/forms-and-resources/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