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

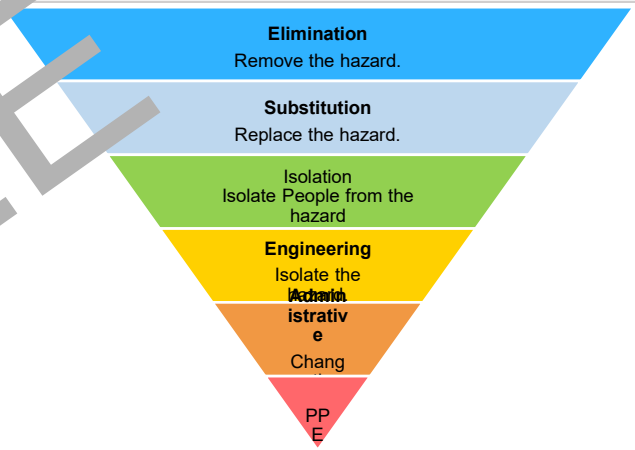
THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT		
Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.		
Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

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. Procurement and Design Selection of Brick Saws	• Purchase of brick saws that do not comply with Australian Standards or WHS Act 2011 general duty of care requirements • Selection of equipment without appropriate guarding, water suppression, emergency stop and noise/vibration controls • Inadequate consideration of dust control features leading to uncontrolled respirable crystalline silica exposure • Procurement decisions driven solely by price rather than safety performance and lifecycle risk • Lack of formal pre-purchase risk assessment and consultation with workers and HSRs • Incompatibility between saws and existing power supply (e.g. RCD requirements, load capacity) increasing electrical risk • Failure to specify safety measures in supplier contracts and purchase orders	High	• Establish and implement a formal plant procurement procedure aligned to WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations (plant, noise and hazardous substances/silica provisions) • Require all brick saws to comply with relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS/NZS 4024 series for machinery safety, AS/NZS 3000 for electrical and manufacturer specifications • Mandate documented pre-purchase risk assessments for any new or hired brick saw, including assessment of dust, noise, vibration, guarding, ergonomics and maintenance requirements • Include minimum safety specifications in tender and supplier documentation (e.g. integrated water suppression for silica control, blade guards, emergency stop, compatible RCD protection, lock-out capability) • Consult with workers, Health and Safety Representatives and supervisors when evaluating different saw models and suppliers • Assess whole-of-life cost including maintenance, replacement parts, training and control measures rather than purchase price only • Develop an approved equipment list so only brick saw types and models that meet company WHS criteria can be purchased or hired • Require suppliers/hire companies to provide safety documentation (plant risk assessment, manuals, test and tag records, noise data, silica control information) before acceptance • Ensure compatibility of new brick saws with existing workplace infrastructure (power supply, water availability, guarding systems, storage and transport arrangements)	Medium
2. Governance, Policies and WHS Management System	• Absence of a documented WHS management system for plant and high-risk activities such as masonry cutting • Unclear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for managing brick saw risks across management, supervisors and workers • Lack of specific policy or procedure for control of respirable crystalline silica generated during brick and masonry cutting • Inadequate integration of brick saw risks into the broader corporate risk register and WHS planning processes • Failure to monitor and review compliance with WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Codes of	High	• Develop and implement a documented WHS management system that specifically addresses plant and high-risk work including brick saw operations • Create a brick saw and masonry cutting policy that references applicable legislation, Regulations and Codes of Practice (e.g. silica dust, noise, plant, construction work) • Define and communicate clear WHS responsibilities for officers, PCBUs, managers, supervisors, workers and contractors in relation to brick saw risk management • Integrate brick saw risks into the organisational risk register with defined controls, owners and review dates • Establish formal WHS planning processes that include objectives, targets and key performance indicators for safe management of brick saws and silica exposure • Implement document control procedures to ensure only current versions of brick saw policies, procedures, risk assessments and forms are accessible and used • Schedule periodic internal audits and management reviews focused on plant safety, silica management, noise control and permit-to-work systems related to cutting	Medium

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	Practice (e.g. managing silica, managing noise, managing plant) • Poor documentation control leading to staff using outdated procedures or instructions • Insufficient management oversight, reporting and review of brick saw incidents, near misses and non-conformances		• Require regular WHS reports to senior management on brick saw incidents, near misses, exposure monitoring results and corrective action status • Ensure officer due diligence obligations are addressed by providing senior leaders with training and briefings on the specific risks associated with masonry cutting activities	
3. Training, Competency and Supervision	• Untrained or inexperienced workers operating brick saws without understanding hazards such as kickback, dust, noise and blade failure • Inadequate competency assessment processes for workers and supervisors overseeing masonry cutting tasks • Lack of training in silica dust risks, health effects and the correct use of engineering controls and PPE • No structured induction for new starters, labour-hire staff or contractors using brick saws on site • Insufficient supervision or oversight, particularly for apprentices, young workers or those unfamiliar with brick saws • Poor understanding of emergency procedures, isolation processes and fault reporting requirements • Language, literacy or cultural barriers preventing effective understanding of training content and instructions		• Develop a formal competency-based training program for brick saw operators that covers hazard identification, risk controls, equipment operations and manufacturer instructions • Require successful completion of theory and practical assessment before authorising workers to operate brick saws unsupervised • Provide training on respirable crystalline silica risks, control hierarchy (elimination, substitution, isolation, engineering, administrative, PPE) and specific control measures used on site • Incorporate brick saw and silica hazards into site and project inductions for all workers, including contractors and labour-hire personnel • Specify minimum competency requirements for supervisors who oversee masonry cutting operations, including understanding of WHS Act duties and relevant Codes of Practice • Implement a competency register that records training dates, assessment outcomes and refresher training requirements for brick saw operators and supervisors • Provide training in emergency response procedures, including response to blade failure, electric shock, fire, uncontrolled dust release and injury management • Use plain language, visual aids, demonstrations and translated materials where needed to ensure workers understand the training • Schedule periodic refresher training and toolbox talks addressing recurring incident trends, new equipment, updated procedures and lessons learned from audits	Medium
4. Plant Registration, Documentation and Manufacturer Information	• Lack of up-to-date operating manuals and safety instructions for each brick saw model in use • Failure to implement manufacturer safety recommendations regarding inspection, maintenance and operating limits • Incomplete or inaccurate plant and equipment register leading to	Medium	[redacted]	Low

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	unidentified or unmanaged brick saws on site • No documented plant risk assessment specific to brick saws and masonry cutting tasks • Inadequate retention of records for modifications, repairs and inspections affecting safety performance • Users relying on informal or verbal instructions rather than current documented guidance		[redacted]	
5. Maintenance, Inspection and Testing Systems	• Failure or malfunction of brick saw components (e.g. blade, guard, motor, water system) due to inadequate maintenance • Use of damaged or incorrect blades leading to blade shattering, kickback or loss of control • Bypassed or defective safety features such as blade guards, emergency stops and RCDs remaining in service • Lack of a structured inspection schedule for brick saws, extension leads, RCDs and associated equipment • Maintenance carried out by unqualified personnel without reference to manufacturer specifications • Inadequate tagging or status identification leading to unintentional use of unsafe or out-of-service equipment	High	[redacted]	Medium
6. Hazardous Substances and Silica Dust Management	• Uncontrolled respirable crystalline silica exposure from cutting bricks, blocks and masonry products	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Lack of a documented silica management plan for brick and masonry saw operations • Reliance on PPE alone rather than higher order controls such as water suppression and local exhaust ventilation • Inadequate air monitoring and health surveillance for workers undertaking frequent or high-intensity cutting • Poor housekeeping and dry sweeping practices leading to re-suspension of settled silica-containing dust • Insufficient information, training and instruction about long-term health impacts of silica exposure • Inadequate selection, fit testing, maintenance and storage of respiratory protective equipment		[redacted]	
7. Noise, Vibration and Ergonomic Risk Management	• Excessive noise exposure from brick saw motors, cutting action and surrounding equipment leading to hearing loss • Hand–arm and whole-body vibration from prolonged use of brick saws and handling of heavy masonry products • Poor workstation layout causing awkward postures, repetitive movements and manual handling injuries • Inadequate assessment of combined noise exposure where multiple saws or other loud equipment operate concurrently • Lack of administrative controls such as task rotation and rest breaks for intensive cutting operations	Medium	[redacted]	Low

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8. Site Planning, Set-up and Traffic Management for Cutting Areas	• Brick saws positioned in unsuitable locations creating trip hazards, poor access/egress and potential for contact with mobile plant or vehicles • Inadequate segregation of cutting zones from other work areas, leading to exposure of bystanders to noise, dust and flying particles • Poor management of cords, hoses and off-cuts causing slips, trips and falls around saw stations • Insufficient lighting and weather protection affecting visibility and increasing error likelihood • Uncontrolled movement of materials to and from cutting stations leading to manual handling and collision risks	High	[redacted]	Medium
9. Safe Systems of Work, Procedures and Permits	• Lack of a formalised safe system of work for brick saw operations leading to inconsistent practices between workers and sites • Procedures that focus only on basic operational steps and not on understanding risk controls or escalation processes • Failure to integrate brick saw controls into broader site procedures such as confined space entry, hot work or working at height where relevant • No formal permit or authorisation process for high-risk cutting activities or non-routine jobs • Inadequate consultation with workers when developing or reviewing brick saw procedures, reducing practicality and compliance	High	[redacted]	Medium

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			[redacted]	
10. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response	• Delayed or ineffective response to serious injuries such as lacerations, amputations, eye injuries or electric shock from brick saw incidents • Lack of clear emergency procedures specific to brick saw failures, blade shattering or uncontrolled dust releases • Inadequate first aid resources and trained first aiders in locations where brick saws are used • Failure to isolate equipment safely following an incident, leading to secondary harm or evidence loss • Poor incident reporting and investigation practices that do not identify root causes related to systems and management	Medium	[redacted]	Low
11. Contractor and Labour-Hire Management	• Contractors and la[illegible]workers using brick saws without verification of competency, training or understanding of site-specific controls • Inconsistent standards between principal contractor and subcontractors regarding silica, noise and plant safety • Ambiguity over PCBUs' shared responsibilities under WHS Act 2011 for managing brick saw risks on multi-PCBU sites • Poor communication of changes to procedures, equipment or site layout affecting cutting operations • Inadequate monitoring of contractor compliance with safe systems of work related to masonry cutting	High	[redacted]	Medium

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			[redacted]	
12. Consultation, Communication and Worker Engagement	• Lack of meaningful consultation with workers and HSRs on brick saw and masonry cutting risks, leading to impractical controls and poor buy-in • Inadequate communication of changes to procedures, controls or equipment affecting brick saw operations • Limited avenues for workers to raise safety concerns or suggestions related to brick saw systems without fear of reprisal • Information about silica dust, noise a… plant hazards communicated in techni… or inaccessible language	Medium	[redacted]	Low
13. Monitoring, Audit and Continuous Improvement	• Failure to detect …teriorati… performance or emc… …sks associated with brick saw operations • Inconsistent implementation of …icies and procedures across di… …t sites or business units • No systematic review of monitoring data such as exposure results, inspection findings or maintenance trends • Corrective actions from incidents, audits or inspections not completed, verified or closed out • Reliance on lag indicators (e.g. injuries) without using leading indicators to drive improvement	Medium	[redacted]	Low

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			[redacted]	

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