

**Chain Blocks Hoists and Winches**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 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><br>Remove the hazard.    |  |
| LIKELY         | 2 MODERATE    | 3 HIGH     | 3 HIGH     | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE      | 4A ACUTE    | DO NOT PROCEED                    | <b>Substitution</b><br>Replace the hazard.  |  |
| POSSIBLE       | 1 LOW         | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH     | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE      | 3H HIGH     | Review before work starts.        | Isolation<br>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><br>Isolate the hazard    |  |
| RARE           | 1 LOW         | 1 LOW      | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH  | 3 HIGH       | 1L LOW      | Monitor and keep records.         | <b>Administrative</b><br>Change             |  |
|                |               |            |            |         |              |             |                                   | <b>PPE</b>                                  |  |

  

| Risk Rating & Required Action: |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>4A</b>                      | 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. |
| <b>3H</b>                      | Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.   |
| <b>2M</b>                      | Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.   |
| <b>1L</b>                      | Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.   |

  

| Consequence Scale:   |   |                    |  |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Consequence          | People (injury/illness)                     | Project / Assets   | Compliance / Reputation                                  |
| <b>Catastrophic</b>  | Fatality or permanent total disability      | project shutdown   | Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution |
| <b>Major</b>         | Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)  | critical delay     | Improvement notice; major media coverage                 |
| <b>Moderate</b>      | Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day | moderate delay     | Minor breach; adverse client comment                     |
| <b>Minor</b>         | First-aid only, no lost time                | negligible delay   | Isolated non-conformance                                 |
| <b>Insignificant</b> | 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. Governance, WHS Duties and Legislative Compliance      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of clear assignment of WHS responsibilities for lifting operations under WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations</li> <li>Failure to identify chain blocks, hoists, winches and associated gear as plant and high-risk activities within the WHS management system</li> <li>No documented policy for mechanical lifting and suspended loads across the organisation</li> <li>Inadequate consultation with workers and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) on lifting systems of work</li> <li>Poor integration of Safe Work Australia model Codes of Practice (e.g. Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace) into site procedures</li> <li>Inadequate monitoring of compliance with statutory requirements for inspection, testing and competent operation of lifting equipment</li> </ul> | 4A           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an organisation-wide Lifting Operations and Mechanical Handling Policy that references WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS 1418, AS 2550, AS 3775, AS 4991)</li> <li>Define PCBU, Officer, Manager and Supervisor responsibilities for selection, use, inspection and management of chain blocks, hoists, lever blocks, winches, pulleys and associated lifting gear</li> <li>Embed lifting risk management requirements within the WHS Management System, including risk assessment, authorisation, inspection, maintenance and competency requirements</li> <li>Establish formal consultation mechanisms with workers and HSRs regarding lifting systems, equipment changes, new plant and review of incidents</li> <li>Maintain a legal register identifying all legislative and Australian Standard requirements applicable to chain blocks, hoists and winches, and schedule periodic compliance audits</li> <li>Require documented approval of lifting procedures and risk assessments by a competent person for all machine-assisted lifting operations</li> <li>Implement an annual WHS governance review for lifting operations, with action plans tracked to completion</li> </ul> | 2M            |
| 2. Procurement, Design and Selection of Lifting Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of non-compliant or unverified chain blocks, hoists, winches and lever blocks (e.g. lacking CE certification, counterfeit products)</li> <li>Selection of equipment without adequate Working Load Limit (WLL) or duty rating for the intended uses and environment</li> <li>Use of improvised, home-made, or modified lifting devices and attachments (hooks, chains, slings, trolleys, pulley blocks)</li> <li>Failure to consider environmental conditions (corrosive, outdoor, explosive atmospheres) in equipment specification</li> <li>Inconsistent or undocumented process for approving new lifting devices and accessories</li> </ul>   | 4A           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a formal procurement standard for lifting equipment specifying compliance with relevant Australian Standards, manufacturer documentation and traceability of supply</li> <li>Require all chain blocks, hoists, winches, lever blocks, pulleys and lifting accessories to be sourced only from pre-qualified suppliers with documented product conformity</li> <li>Implement a pre-purchase risk assessment and engineering review process for new lifting equipment and systems, including assessment of WLL, duty cycle and environment</li> <li>Prohibit purchase or use of improvised or modified lifting gear without written approval and verification by a competent engineer</li> <li>Specify requirements for overload protection, brakes, load limiting devices and secondary retention for hoists and winches where practicable</li> <li>Maintain a central asset register for all lifting devices, including serial numbers, WLL, inspection regime and location</li> <li>Include clauses in procurement contracts requiring provision of OEM manuals, conformity certificates and inspection requirements</li> </ul>  | 2M            |

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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 |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of fail-safe or overload protection on winches and hoists</li> </ul>   |              |  |               |
| 3. Planning of Lifting Operations and Task Risk Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad-hoc or last-minute lifting without formal planning or risk assessment</li> <li>Inadequate assessment of load weight, centre of gravity, lift path and potential for dynamic loading or shock loading</li> <li>Failure to consider interaction between machine-assisted lifting and other activities (e.g. vehicle movements, public access, overhead services)</li> <li>No system for categorising lifts (routine, non-routine, complex, critical) and applying appropriate planning controls</li> <li>Insufficient consideration of weather, ground conditions and building structure capacity for anchoring and supporting lifting equipment</li> <li>Inadequate coordination when multiple parties or contractors are involved in shared worksites</li> </ul> | 4A           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a formal lifting planning procedure requiring documented risk assessment (separate to SWMS) for all non-routine or complex lifting activities using chain blocks, hoists, winches and pulley systems</li> <li>Develop criteria and a permit-to-lift system for critical or complex lifts, including review by a competent person or lifting coordinator</li> <li>Require calculation and verification of load weights, centre of gravity and load paths, including contingency planning for load shift or snagging</li> <li>Mandate pre-lift planning meetings (toolbox talks) for lifts involving multiple workers, contractors or work teams</li> <li>Incorporate assessment of external factors (weather, ground bearing capacity, structure load ratings, overhead services, confined spaces) into lift plans</li> <li>Integrate lifting planning with traffic management, exclusion zones and public protection systems documented in site management plans</li> <li>Maintain documented lift plans and risk assessments for significant or repeat lifts and review them after incidents or near misses</li> </ul> | 2M            |
| 4. Structural Support, Anchoring and Load Path Integrity   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of unsuitable structural supports (beams, scaffolds, building frames, mobile plant) for securing chain blocks or pulley systems</li> <li>No engineering verification of load-bearing capacity for anchor points and supporting structures</li> <li>Undocumented installation of fixed or temporary lifting points (pad eyes, beam trolleys, eye bolts) leading to structural failure</li> <li>Load paths passing over occupied work areas, access ways or public zones</li> <li>Inadequate systems to prevent side-loading, twisting or overloading of structural members and lifting points</li> </ul>   | 4A           | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>  | 2M            |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to manage the cumulative impact of multiple simultaneous lifts on shared structures</li> </ul>  |              |   |               |
| 5. Equipment Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Systems       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of systematic inspections and maintenance for chain blocks, hoists, winches, lever blocks, hooks and chains</li> <li>Failure to identify wear, corrosion, bent hooks, stretched chains, damaged gears, faulty brakes or frayed wire ropes</li> <li>Out-of-date or missing inspection tags and records, leading to use of unverified equipment</li> <li>Inadequate test and recertification regime for lifting equipment and accessories</li> <li>No process for isolating, tagging out and removing defective lifting equipment from service</li> <li>Use of incompatible or mixed-grade chains, hooks or slings in the same lifting system</li> </ul>     | 4A           | <p>[REDACTED]</p> | 2M            |
| 6. Load Rigging, Lifting Accessories and Configuration Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect selection of chains, hooks, shackles, slings and pulleys for type of load and lift configuration</li> <li>Mis-rigging leading to eccentric loading, sling angle overload, or slippage</li> <li>Uncontrolled use of secondary rigging (e.g. taglines, spreader bars) without design verification</li> <li>Inadequate inspection and control of removable accessories such as hooks, clamps, eyebolts and beam trolleys</li> <li>Failure to manage de-rating factors for lifts using multiple falls, snatch blocks or complex pulley arrangements</li> <li>Use of non-rated lifting points on loads (e.g. welded lugs without certification)</li> </ul> | 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>                   | 2M            |

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|  |  |              | [REDACTED]   |               |
| 7. Operator, Rigger and Dogger Competency and Training               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of untrained or inexperienced persons to set up and operate chain blocks, hoists, winches and lever blocks</li> <li>• Inadequate knowledge of WLL, mechanical advantage, pulley systems and basic load calculations</li> <li>• Insufficient understanding of pinch points, stored energy, dynamic loading and suspended load risks</li> <li>• No verification of high risk work licences where dogging or rigging is required under WHS Regulations</li> <li>• Lack of refresher training or competency reassessment, leading to skill fade and poor habits</li> <li>• Failure to train supervisors and managers in recognising unsafe lifting practices and system failures</li> </ul> | 4A           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |
| 8. Communication, Coordination and Supervision of Lifting Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor communication between operators, riggers, spotters and other workers in the lifting area</li> <li>• Absence of agreed communication protocols, especially where visibility is limited</li> <li>• Inadequate supervision of factors or new workers engaged in loading and unloading using mechanical devices</li> <li>• Conflicting instructions from multiple supervisors or principals on shared worksites</li> <li>• Failure to brief surrounding workgroups about lifting operations, exclusion zones and timing</li> <li>• Misunderstanding of stop-work authority or escalation processes when unsafe conditions are observed</li> </ul>  | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |

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| 9. Site Layout, Exclusion Zones and Interaction with Other Plant              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal system to establish and enforce exclusion zones beneath and around suspended loads</li> <li>Interaction between mechanical lifting equipment and mobile plant (forklifts, cranes, vehicles) during loading and unloading</li> <li>Uncontrolled public or non-essential worker access to areas where chain blocks, hoists or winches are in use</li> <li>Poor housekeeping causing trip hazards, snag points or restricted egress around lifting locations</li> <li>Inadequate planning of anchor locations resulting in lifting lines crossing walkways, doorways or roadways</li> <li>Insufficient signage or barriers to warn of overhead lifting and machine-assisted lifting operations</li> </ul> | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 1L            |
| 10. Manual Handling, Ergonomics and Use of Mechanical Advantage               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over-reliance on manual effort to tension or operate lever blocks and hand chain hoists leading to musculoskeletal disorders</li> <li>Poor ergonomic design of workstations, leading to awkward postures when operating blocks, winches or pulley systems</li> <li>Manual handling of heavy chains, hooks and rigging gear without mechanical aids or trolleys</li> <li>Inappropriate selection of equipment resulting in excessive hand forces or repetitive actions</li> <li>Insufficient systems for rotating tasks and managing fatigue associated with high physical demand lifting operations</li> </ul>   | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |
| 11. Environmental and Site Conditions (Outdoor, Confined and Hazardous Areas) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of chain blocks, hoists and winches in corrosive, wet or dusty environments without appropriate protection or maintenance systems</li> </ul>   | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposed lifting operations in high winds, rain or poor visibility increasing risk of load swing and loss of control</li> <li>Operation in confined spaces without integrating lifting systems into confined space risk management procedures</li> <li>Use of lifting equipment in hazardous areas (e.g. flammable atmospheres) without considering ignition risks from powered winches or static discharge</li> <li>Inadequate drainage or uneven ground increasing risk of instability for supporting structures or mobile anchors</li> </ul>   |              | [REDACTED]   |               |
| 12. Energy Isolation, Stored Energy and Failure Modes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncontrolled release of stored energy from loaded chains, tensioned winch cables and pulley systems during failure or mis-operation</li> <li>Absence of systematic lock-out/tag-out procedures for powered winches and associated plant</li> <li>Failure of brakes, pawls, ratchets or gear mechanisms due to wear or overloading without replacement</li> <li>Uncontrolled back-driving or runaway of loads when winches or hoists are released or powered</li> <li>No consideration of secondary retention or catch systems for suspended loads during installation or maintenance activities</li> </ul> | 4A           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |
| 13. Contractor Management and Third-Party Interfaces  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractors using their own chain blocks, hoists, winches and lifting gear that do not meet site or Australian Standards requirements</li> <li>Inconsistent lifting procedures and communication protocols between principal contractor and subcontractors</li> <li>Lack of visibility over contractor competency, licences and training for lifting operations</li> <li>Inadequate review of contractor lift plans, SWMS and risk assessments for</li> </ul>  | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |

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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 |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>machine-assisted lifting and loading/unloading</li> <li>• Third-party deliveries and pickups undertaking uncontrolled lifting operations on or near the site</li> </ul>   |              | [REDACTED]   |               |
| 14. Incident Reporting, Emergency Response and Rescue Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed or ineffective response to lifting incidents such as dropped loads, equipment failure or entrapment</li> <li>• Lack of specific emergency procedures for failures involving suspended loads and entanglement in chains or winch cables</li> <li>• Inadequate rescue capability for workers operating in elevated or confined positions using chain blocks and hoists</li> <li>• Under-reporting of near misses and minor incidents related to lifting operations, reducing learning opportunities</li> <li>• Poor coordination with external emergency services regarding site-specific lifting hazards and access constraints</li> </ul> | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 1L            |
| 15. Monitoring, Audit, Consultation and Continuous Improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No systematic monitoring of lifting operations and equipment management performance</li> <li>• Failure to detect non-compliance with lifting procedures, exclusions and inspection regimes</li> <li>• Limited worker involvement in reviewing the effectiveness of controls and suggesting improvements</li> <li>• Data on lifting-related hazards, incidents and maintenance not being analysed for trends</li> <li>• Complacency over time leading to erosion of controls and normalisation of deviance from safe systems</li> </ul>  | 3H           | [REDACTED]   | 2M            |

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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 |
|                     |                        |              |  |               |

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 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-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) Regulation 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>

**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>

**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.