

**Dogging Slinging and Rigging**

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:	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:	
<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 for the task parts. 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 Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of clear allocation of PCBU, officer and worker WHS duties for dogging, slinging and rigging activities</li> <li>Inadequate consultation with workers and Health and Safety Representatives on lifting operations and risk controls</li> <li>Failure to integrate WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation requirements (e.g. high risk work licensing, plant and risk management) into company policies</li> <li>Poor change management when new lifting methods, lifting gear or crane types are introduced</li> <li>Insufficient oversight of contractor and subcontractor compliance for dogging and rigging work</li> </ul>	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a documented WHS Governance Framework that clearly assigns responsibilities for dogging, slinging and rigging risks in line with the WHS Act 2011</li> <li>Implement a formal consultation procedure that requires engagement with workers and HSRs when planning or changing lifting systems, equipment or procedures</li> <li>Develop and maintain a WHS legal register covering relevant Australian legislation, codes of practice and standards for dogging, rigging and crane operations, and review it at least annually</li> <li>Mandate inclusion of lifting operations in WHS Committee agendas, including regular review of incidents, near misses and improvement actions related to dogging and rigging</li> <li>Apply a formal management of Change (MoC) process before new lifting equipment, attachments, spreader beams or methods are introduced, including risk assessment and worker consultation</li> <li>Include contractor management procedures that require verification of licences, insurances, SWMS and risk assessments for external doggers and riggers</li> <li>Conduct periodic contractor due diligence reviews to verify that adequate resources and systems are in place for safe dogging and rigging activities</li> </ul>	3H
2. Competency, High Risk Work Licensing and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of unlicensed personnel for dogging or rigging tasks requiring a high risk work (HRW) licence</li> <li>Inadequate verification of competency for doggers, riggers and crane operators, including use of falsified licences</li> <li>Insufficient training in correct hand signalling for crane operations and communication protocols</li> <li>Lack of training in load calculation and planning, including use of load charts, spreaders and beam lifters</li> <li>No structured refresher training for infrequently performed or complex lifting operations</li> <li>Failure to ensure supervisors understand their obligations when overseeing dogging and rigging work</li> </ul>	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a competency management system that records, verifies and tracks HRW licences for dogging, rigging and crane operation, including expiry alerts</li> <li>Develop a training matrix that specifies minimum qualification and experience requirements for each role involved in lifting operations (dogman, rigger, crane operator, supervisor)</li> <li>Mandate formal training and assessment in hand signalling for operators and doggers, aligned to Australian Standards and site-specific procedures</li> <li>Provide structured training modules on load calculation and planning, including sling angle effects, centre of gravity, use of load charts, and load rating of chains, slings and spreader beams</li> <li>Require verification of competency (VOC) assessments before allowing personnel to perform unsupervised dogging or rigging work on site</li> <li>Schedule periodic refresher training and toolbox talks on critical topics such as working under raised loads, lifting gates, and use of spreaders and beam lifters</li> <li>Train supervisors in the company's lifting procedures, legal obligations and their specific responsibilities for authorising and monitoring lifts</li> <li>Audit a sample of licences and training records quarterly to ensure authenticity and compliance</li> </ul>	2M
3. Lift Planning, Engineering Review and Authorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of formal lift planning for complex, non-routine or heavy lifts</li> <li>Inadequate engineering input into critical lifts involving uneven loads, beam lifters, spreaders or multi-crane lifts</li> </ul>	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Lift Planning Procedure that classifies lifts (e.g. standard, non-standard, critical) and defines planning and approval requirements for each category</li> <li>Require documented lift plans for all non-standard or critical lifts, including load calculation, rigging configuration, sling angles, use of spreaders and beam lifters, and communication methods</li> </ul>	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor consideration of environmental conditions (wind, ground bearing capacity, overhead services) at the planning stage</li> <li>Inadequate assessment of lifting points, lifting gates and attachment design suitability</li> <li>Failure to document and communicate limitations, load paths and exclusion zones to all affected workers</li> <li>Informal or undocumented approval of lift plans, resulting in uncontrolled deviations</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate engineering review and written sign-off for complex lifts, lifting gates, specially designed lifting attachments and lifts near capacity limits</li> <li>Integrate environmental and site condition assessment (ground stability, wind limits, overhead and underground services, nearby traffic) into the lift planning template</li> <li>Specify mandatory identification of load paths, no-go zones and exclusion zones in each lift plan, including controls for working under raised loads</li> <li>Implement a formal lift authorisation system where competent supervisors review and sign off lift plans before work commences</li> <li>Control and archive lift plans and associated documentation in a central document management system for traceability and control</li> <li>Include a requirement to review and re-authorise lift plans if conditions, equipment or load configuration change</li> </ul>	
4. Lifting Gear Procurement, Selection and Design Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of non-compliant or undocumented lifting gear, chains, slings and beam lifters</li> <li>Use of lifting equipment without adequate design verification or rating (e.g. lifting gates, custom spreader bars)</li> <li>Incompatibility between lifting gear components (hooks, shackles, chains, synthetic slings, attachment points)</li> <li>Inadequate traceability of lifting equipment leading to unknown working load limits (WLL) or service history</li> <li>Failure to consider environmental and operational conditions (temperature, chemicals, sharp edges) in lifting gear selection</li> </ul>		<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. Inspection, Maintenance and Asset Management of Lifting Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lifting gear inspection programs not implemented or not aligned with manufacturer and Australian Standard requirements</li> <li>Use of damaged, worn or uncertified chains, slings, hooks and spreaders due to poor inspection systems</li> <li>Inadequate tagging, colour coding or identification of inspected lifting gear</li> </ul>	3H	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	1L

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to quarantine and dispose of rejected lifting equipment</li> <li>• Limited competence of inspectors performing lifting gear inspections</li> </ul>		[REDACTED]	
6. Crane and Plant Management, Load Charts and Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of cranes or lifting plant without verified capacity for the required load and configuration</li> <li>• Failure to correctly interpret or apply load charts, including boom length, radius, outrigger configuration and deration for lifting attachments</li> <li>• Inadequate maintenance systems for cranes and lifting plant leading to mechanical failure during lifts</li> <li>• Outdated or missing crane documentation, including load charts and operating manuals</li> <li>• Uncontrolled modifications to cranes, load indicators, limit switches or safety devices</li> </ul>	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
7. Communication Systems and Hand Signalling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miscommunication between dogman, crane operator and other personnel leading to uncontrolled load movement</li> <li>• Inconsistent or non-standard hand signals used across different crews or contractors</li> <li>• Reliance on verbal communication alone in noisy or visually obstructed environments</li> <li>• Failure of radios or communication devices during critical lifting operations</li> <li>• No formal process to nominate a single responsible dogman or signaler for each lift</li> </ul>	4A	[REDACTED]	2M

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			[REDACTED]	
8. Site Layout, Exclusion Zones and Working Under Raised Loads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personnel working or passing under suspended or raised loads due to poor exclusion zone management</li> <li>Insufficient planning for load paths, swing radius and interaction with other work groups or plant</li> <li>Uncontrolled public or third-party access to areas beneath or adjacent to lifting operations</li> <li>Inadequate signage, barriers and supervision around lifting areas</li> <li>Conflicts between mobile plant movements and crane operations</li> </ul>	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
9. Work Planning, Scheduling and Fatigue Management for Dogging Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doggers and riggers working excessive hours or shifts leading to fatigue and poor decision-making</li> <li>Inadequate planning and resourcing, resulting in time pressure and shortcutting of lifting controls</li> <li>Undue production pressure overriding safe lifting practices and systems</li> <li>Insufficient supervision of high-risk dogging and slinging activities on night shift or remote sites</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

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10. Contractor, Subcontractor and Crane Hire Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistent safety standards and procedures between principal contractor and crane hire or rigging subcontractors</li> <li>Use of contractors without appropriate HRW licences, insurance or proven competence in dogging and rigging</li> <li>Poor integration of contractor lift plans, SWMS and risk assessments with site-specific requirements</li> <li>Inadequate monitoring and verification of contractor compliance during lifting operations</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
11. Documentation, Procedures and SWMS Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of clear, accessible procedures for dogging, slinging, rigging and crane operations</li> <li>Outdated or inconsistent documentation leading to confusion about required controls</li> <li>Poor integration between high-level risk assessments, lift plans and task level SWMS</li> <li>Failure of workers to understand or follow documented procedures due to complexity or poor communication</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	1L
12. Risk Management, Incident Reporting and Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of systematic identification and review of dogging and rigging risks at the organisational level</li> <li>Under-reporting of near misses related to lifting operations, including dropped loads and signalling errors</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ineffective incident investigation processes that do not identify underlying system causes</li> <li>Failure to share lessons learned from lifting incidents across sites or projects</li> </ul>		[REDACTED]	
13. Emergency Preparedness for Lifting Incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate preparedness for incidents such as dropped loads, entrapment, equipment failure or crane instability</li> <li>Lack of clear roles and responsibilities during lifting-related emergencies</li> <li>Insufficient access to rescue equipment and first aid in areas where dogging and rigging work is conducted</li> <li>Poor coordination with external emergency services for complex sites or remote locations</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	1L
14. Health, Ergonomics and Manual Handling in Rigging Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Musculoskeletal injuries from manually handling heavy chains, slings, spreader bars and lifting gear</li> <li>Poor ergonomic design of storage areas and racks for lifting gear, leading to awkward postures and overexertion</li> <li>Cumulative strain from repetitive rigging activities such as attaching and detaching slings</li> <li>Lack of consideration of individual health limitations when allocating dogging and rigging tasks</li> </ul>	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

**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/factsheets-and-resources/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.