

Electrical and Diagnostics

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			Elimination Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	Substitution 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.	Engineering Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	Administrative Change	
								PPE	

Risk Rating & Required Action:	
4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. Eliminate the hazard or redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or higher-level authorisation is required.
3H	Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
1L	Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.

Consequence Scale:			
Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
Catastrophic	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
Major	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
Moderate	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
Minor	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
Insignificant	No injury	no schedule impact	Deviation caught and corrected on site

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:
Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. **Substitute**
3. **Isolate**
4. **Engineering**
5. **Administrative**
6. **PPE**

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work (2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. WHS Governance, Policies and Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of a documented WHS management system referencing WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations for electrical and diagnostic work Inadequate integration of electrical safety, plant and hazardous chemicals requirements into workshop policies Lack of procedures covering high-risk activities such as airbag system work, ignition diagnostics and dynamometer operation Poor consultation with workers and health and safety representatives on changes to diagnostic procedures and equipment No formal process to review incidents, near misses or regulatory changes related to electrical and diagnostic work 	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a documented WHS management System that specifically addresses electrical and diagnostic activities in line with WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Codes of Practice Establish workshop-specific policies for electrical safety, plant and equipment, hazardous chemicals, and high-risk automotive diagnostic tasks, endorsed by senior management Create, authorise and maintain a controlled set of WHS procedures for vehicle diagnostics, ignition system work, airbag removal, dynamometer operation and use of diagnostic software and equipment Implement a formal WHS consultation process with workers and HSRs for introducing new diagnostic technology, equipment or work methods Schedule periodic legal and standards compliance reviews (e.g. AS/NZS 3000, AS/NZS 3012, AS/NZS 4836 and relevant automotive standards) with actions tracked to completion Establish an incident and near-miss reporting, investigation and corrective action system that targets underlying system failures in electrical and diagnostic work 	3H
2. Electrical Safety Management and Isolation Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate lock-out/tag-out system for isolating vehicle electrical systems, batteries and mains-powered diagnostic equipment Uncontrolled exposure to live circuits during ignition system diagnostics and repair Unsafe practices when testing and adjusting alternator settings, including working on energised systems Lack of standardised procedures for de-energising vehicles prior to diagnostics or software connection No system for managing risks from jump-starting, booster packs or auxiliary power sources Inadequate labelling and segregation of high-voltage or hybrid systems (where applicable) 	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a lock-out/tag-out (LOTO) procedure for automotive electrical systems, including battery isolation, fuses and main feeds, and ensure it is mandatory prior to diagnostic or repair work Develop documented safe work procedures for ignition system diagnostics, alternator testing and charging system work that specify de-energisation, test equipment ratings and verification of isolation Introduce a standard pre-diagnostic electrical isolation checklist for all vehicles, integrated into job cards or workshop management software Standardise the use and storage of jump-start packs and auxiliary power units, including current-limited devices and manufacturer-approved connection points Clearly identify and label higher-risk electrical systems (e.g. high-output alternators, modified performance systems, hybrid/EV where relevant) and apply additional isolation controls Conduct periodic audits of electrical isolation practices, including observation and documentation reviews, with non-conformances actioned and trended 	2M
3. Airbag and Supplementary Restraint Systems (SRS) Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect or absent procedures for airbag removal and refit leading to unintentional deployment 	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop detailed workshop procedures for airbag removal, handling and refit that align with OEM information and WHS and dangerous goods requirements for pyrotechnic devices 	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate training on working with airbag systems and SRS control modules Failure to follow manufacturer de-energisation and wait-time requirements before handling SRS components Poor tracking and storage of removed airbag modules and pyrotechnic devices No system to verify that vehicles with disabled or removed airbags are not released to customers without documentation and warnings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandate that only trained and deemed competent personnel may perform work on SRS systems, with competency verified and recorded Include SRS de-energisation steps and required wait times in standard job checklists and diagnostic workflows, referencing specific vehicle manuals Provide designated storage areas and containers for removed airbag modules, with inventory and disposal processes that comply with dangerous goods and waste regulations Implement a verification and sign-off process confirming that SRS systems are functional, or clearly documented as inoperative, before vehicle release Undertake periodic audits of SRS work orders and processes to confirm adherence to procedures and traceability of removed/replaced units 	
4. Dynamometer (Chassis and Engine) Safety Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of a formal risk assessment and operating procedure for chassis and engine dynamometer testing Inadequate guarding, barriers or exclusion zones around moving parts and rotating components Uncontrolled vehicle movement or detachment from the chassis dynamometer under load Noise, exhaust emissions and heat build-up not adequately managed during dynamometer operation Insufficient controls for electrical and data connections between vehicle and dynamometer systems Inadequate emergency stop systems and response procedures for dynamometer faults or test failures 		<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. Diagnostic Software, Data Security and Configuration Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of unlicensed or unverified diagnostic software leading to incorrect diagnostic codes or unsafe configurations Software updates or coding changes that unintentionally disable safety systems such as airbags, ABS or stability control 	3H	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor management of access rights to diagnostic systems, allowing unqualified staff to change critical parameters Lack of documented procedures for reading diagnostic codes, clearing faults and verifying repairs Cybersecurity vulnerabilities in connected diagnostic equipment that could compromise system integrity 		[REDACTED]	
6. Competency, Licensing and Training for Electrical and Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers performing electrical and diagnostic work without appropriate trade qualification or competency verification Insufficient training in ignition system diagnostics, diesel engine diagnostics and alternator testing methods Lack of ongoing training in new vehicle technologies, complex electronic systems and diagnostic platforms No formal induction to workshop-specific risks such as dynamometer testing, SRS handling and use of diagnostic software Supervision systems that do not adequately monitor apprentices and new starters during high-risk diagnostic tasks 	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
7. Workshop Layout, Plant, and Infrastructure for Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor workshop layout causing vehicle movement conflicts around diagnostic bays and dynamometers Inadequate segregation of high-risk diagnostic areas (e.g. dynamometer cell, SRS workbench) from general workshop activities Insufficient electrical supply design, leading to overloading circuits used for diagnostic equipment and test rigs Trip and crush hazards from poorly routed diagnostic leads, exhaust hoses and test equipment 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate lighting and ventilation in diagnostic areas, increasing the risk of error and exposure to fumes 			
8. Equipment Procurement, Maintenance and Inspection Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of outdated, damaged or non-calibrated diagnostic tools, multimeters and oscilloscopes Inadequate maintenance regime for dynamometers, alternator test rigs and engine test stands Failure of safety interlocks or guards on diagnostic and test equipment due to lack of inspection No test and tag program for portable electrical equipments used in diagnostics Poorly managed repair and replacement of defective diagnostic leads, probes and adapters 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
9. Safe Systems for Vehicle Diagnostics and Test Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of standardised procedures for performing vehicle diagnostics and reading diagnostic codes Uncontrolled cranking or engine running during diagnostics, creating risks of entanglement, noise and vibration Inconsistent approaches to diesel engine diagnostics that may involve exposure to high-pressure fuel systems or hot components No formal risk assessment for non-standard diagnostic tasks, performance tuning or fault replication on the road Failure to manage risks when replacing directional indicators, vehicle heating system components or other safety-related parts under diagnostic conditions 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
10. Hazardous Energy, Heat and Emission Exposure Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to exhaust gases during engine and dynamometer testing due to inadequate extraction 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns from hot engine, exhaust and heating system components during diagnostics and repair Unmanaged battery charging, discharging and jump-starting leading to explosion, acid exposure or fire Prolonged exposure to noise from test engines and dynamometers exceeding exposure standards Accumulation of flammable vapours or combustible materials near hot surfaces and ignition sources 		[REDACTED]	
11. Contractor, Visitor and Customer Vehicle Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractors undertaking electrical or diagnostic work without induction into workshop-specific WHS procedures Visitors or customers entering diagnostic or dynamometer areas without awareness of hazards Insufficient controls over customer-supplied or modified vehicles that may have unknown electrical or safety system alterations Lack of clear communication to customers about limitations or risks when safety systems (e.g. airbags, indicators, heating/defogging) are inoperative Inadequate verification of contractor qualifications and insurances for specialist diagnostic services 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
12. Emergency Preparedness, Incident Response and First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific emergency response procedures for electrical shock, SRS misfire or dynamometer failure Inadequate first aid equipment and training relevant to burns, electrical injuries and crush injuries Staff uncertainty about emergency shutdown of dynamometers, test 	3H	[REDACTED]	1L

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	<p>engines and mains-powered diagnostic equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete investigation of electrical and diagnostic-related incidents, leading to repeated systemic failures • Lack of coordination with emergency services regarding workshop-specific hazards such as airbags and test cells 		[REDACTED]	
13. Fatigue, Workload and Human Factors in Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex diagnostic tasks undertaken when workers are fatigued, increasing risk of error and unsafe decision-making • Production and time pressures leading to bypassing of isolation, verification or test procedures • Cognitive overload when using multiple diagnostic systems, software platforms and reference materials simultaneously • Inadequate break scheduling during prolonged investigations or repetitive testing sessions • Poor reporting culture where workers feel unable to raise concerns about rushed or unsafe diagnostic practices 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
14. Documentation, Records and Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete or inaccurate documentation of diagnostic procedures, software changes and test outcomes • Loss of historical diagnostic data that could inform future risk assessments or maintenance planning • No formal process to review and improve diagnostic and electrical safety procedures following incidents or new technology introduction • Poor integration of WHS documentation with workshop management and job control systems • Difficulty demonstrating compliance with WHS and regulatory requirements during audits or inspections 	2M	[REDACTED]	1L

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SAMPLE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES 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.