

Mobile Plant

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. Governance, WHS Duties and Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of clear allocation of WHS duties for officers, PCBUs, managers and supervisors in relation to mobile plant Board and senior management not exercising due diligence regarding mobile plant risks under WHS Act 2011 Inadequate consultation with workers and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) about mobile plant risk controls and changes No formal WHS policy or strategic objectives covering mobile plant use, procurement and operation Poor integration of mobile plant risks into the organisation's overall WHS management system Failure to coordinate WHS duties where multiple PCBUs share a workplace or plant (e.g. host employer, labour hire, contractors) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and document a WHS governance framework that explicitly includes mobile plant, detailing roles, responsibilities and reporting lines for officers, PCBUs, managers, supervisors and workers Ensure officers demonstrate due diligence regarding mobile plant by regularly reviewing plant risk registers, audit outcomes, incident trends and compliance reports, and documenting decisions and actions Develop a mobile plant WHS policy endorsed by senior management that sets expectations for safe design, procurement, operation, maintenance and commissioning, aligned with the WHS Act 2011 and relevant Regulations and Codes of Practice Implement formal consultation procedures with workers and HSRs on mobile plant issues (e.g. toolbox talks, safety committees, consultation records) prior to introducing new plant, technology or procedures Establish arrangements for cooperation and coordination of WHS duties between PCBUs sharing the same mobile plant or worksite, including written agreements describing responsibilities for training, supervision, maintenance and traffic management Integrate mobile plant risks into the organisation's WHS management system, ensuring they are covered in risk management procedures, change management processes, contractor management and emergency planning Set measurable WHS objectives and KPIs for mobile plant (e.g. completion of inspections, close-out of corrective actions, reduction in near misses) and review them at regular management meetings Require periodic independent or internal WHS audits that include mobile plant governance and systems, and ensure audit findings are tracked to completion 	Medium
2. Plant Procurement, Design and Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile plant purchased or hired without structured WHS specifications or compliance checks Plant not designed or configured to minimise collision, roll-over, entrapment and visibility risks Failure to confirm compliance with relevant Australian Standards and manufacturer requirements Inadequate consideration of the work environment (terrain, gradients, operating envelope) during selection Procurement decisions focused primarily on cost or productivity rather than life-cycle safety and maintainability No systematic verification of guarding, interlocks, warning devices and operator protection structures 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and apply a formal mobile plant procurement procedure that includes mandatory WHS criteria, consultation with end users and HSRs, and sign-off by a competent person prior to purchase or hire Require suppliers to provide evidence of compliance with relevant Australian Standards, manufacturer documentation, risk assessments, and safety features (e.g. ROPS/FOPS, seat belts, emergency stops, reversing alarms, cameras, proximity sensors) Include detailed technical and safety specifications in purchase and hire agreements, such as visibility requirements, load capacities, braking performance, ergonomics, noise and vibration limits, and fail-safe systems Conduct a pre-purchase risk assessment for each type of mobile plant, considering the intended tasks, operating environment, potential interactions with pedestrians and other plant, and foreseeable misuse Specify requirements for engineering controls that reduce reliance on operator behaviour (e.g. speed limiting, interlocks to prevent operation without seat belt, automatic park brake, access control systems) Include maintainability and inspection access in selection criteria, ensuring safe access to service points, isolation points, and that spare parts and technical support are readily available Ensure plant is delivered with complete documentation (operator manuals, maintenance schedules, compliance certificates, training materials) and that documentation is controlled within the WHS management system 	Medium

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a commissioning process that verifies all safety features are installed and operational before the plant is released for use, and records are kept on file 	
3. Risk Management and Change Management for Mobile Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of a structured risk management process specifically addressing mobile plant operations and interfaces Risk assessments not updated when new plant, tasks, attachments or technologies are introduced Changes to layout, traffic flows or work methods implemented without formal WHS review Inconsistent involvement of competent persons and frontline workers in plant-related risk assessments Over-reliance on informal knowledge rather than documented hazard identification and risk control processes 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a documented risk management process (identify, assess, control, review) specifically to mobile plant, in line with the WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation, ensuring it covers interaction with people and other plant Maintain a mobile plant risk register that captures hazards, assessed risk levels, selected controls, responsible persons and target dates, and ensure it is reviewed at defined intervals Implement a formal change management process requiring WHS review and sign-off before any significant change in mobile plant (e.g. new plant, attachments, routes, work methods, technology upgrades, new contractors) Require that risk assessments for mobile plant involve competent persons, operators, supervisors, maintenance personnel and HSRs, and that outcomes are communicated to all affected workers Standardise risk assessment tools (e.g. templates, risk matrices) to ensure consistent evaluation of likelihood and consequence for mobile plant risks across the organisation Link mobile plant risk assessments to documented control frameworks such as hierarchy of control guidelines, ensuring priority is given to elimination, substitution and engineering controls Schedule periodic reviews of mobile plant risk assessments after incidents, near misses, or when monitoring data (inspections, observations) indicate existing controls may be ineffective Store all mobile plant risk assessments in a central, version-controlled system accessible to relevant stakeholders 	Medium
4. Training, Competency and Licensing Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators using mobile plant without appropriate high-risk work licences or verification of competency No formal competency standards or training pathways for different categories of mobile plant Inadequate assessment of theoretical knowledge and practical skills before authorisation to operate Failure to maintain up-to-date training, refresher courses and re-assessment after incidents or long periods of non-use Supervisors lacking competence to monitor, coach and correct mobile plant behaviours Training content not tailored to site-specific hazards, traffic rules and emergency procedures 	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium

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			[REDACTED]	
5. Site Rules, Traffic Management and Separation Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of formal traffic management plan for mobile plant and pedestrians • Uncontrolled interaction between mobile plant, other vehicles and pedestrians in shared workspaces • Inadequate systems for defining and enforcing speed limits, right-of-way and exclusion zones • Poorly designed plant routes and loading areas that increase reversing, blind spots and congestion • Inconsistent communication of site traffic rules to employees, contractors and visitors 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium
6. Mobile Plant Operation Rules and Supervision Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent adherence to safe operating rules for mobile plant across shifts, sites and contractors • Insufficient supervisory presence or capability to monitor mobile plant operations effectively • Over-reliance on operator judgement in high-risk scenarios without clear decision frameworks 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate systems for managing unplanned deviations from procedures or operating envelopes Production or time pressures driving unsafe plant operation behaviours 		[REDACTED]	
7. Maintenance, Inspection and Asset Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile plant operating on unreported or unresolved defects due to weak maintenance systems Lack of planned preventive maintenance and statutory inspection schedules Maintenance tasks completed without adequate isolation, access or verification procedures Inaccurate or incomplete maintenance records leading to poor decision-making Reliance on informal defect reporting rather than a structured, traceable system 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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8. Contractor, Labour Hire and Supplier Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor and labour hire personnel operating or working around mobile plant without being subject to equivalent WHS controls as direct employees • Poor coordination of mobile plant activities between multiple PCBUs on the same site • Inadequate prequalification of suppliers and contractors regarding mobile plant safety performance and systems • Unclear allocation of responsibilities for training, supervision, maintenance and incident reporting involving contractor-operated plant 	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium
9. Fatigue, Fitness for Work and Impairment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile plant operation by workers affected by fatigue, drugs, alcohol or medical conditions • Work rosters and schedules that contribute to excessive working hours, night work or inadequate rest • Lack of systems for screening, declaring and managing medical restrictions relevant to plant operation • Inconsistent enforcement of fitness for work and substance policies for employees and contractors 	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium

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			[REDACTED]	
10. Information, Documentation and Communication Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators and supervisors using outdated or inconsistent procedures and manuals for mobile plant Critical information about plant limitations, defects, modifications or restrictions not communicated effectively Poor document control leading to multiple uncontrolled copies of plant related procedures and plans Language and literacy barriers limiting understanding of mobile plant risks and controls 	Medium	[REDACTED]	Low
11. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Management for Mobile Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate planning for mobile plant-related emergencies such as collisions, roll-overs, entrapment or spills 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of clarity about roles, responsibilities and communication pathways during plant incidents Insufficient training and drills for workers likely to respond to mobile plant emergencies Mobile plant incidents not investigated systematically, leading to missed opportunities to address root causes 		[REDACTED]	
12. Monitoring, Audit and Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile plant risks not systematically monitored, leading to degradation of controls over time Lack of performance indicators or data to evaluate effectiveness of related WHS controls Audit and inspection findings not tracked to completion, allowing issues to persist Workers' and HSRs' feedback on mobile plant risks not incorporated into improvement processes 	Medium	[REDACTED]	Low

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			[REDACTED]	
			[REDACTED]	

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.