

Plasterboard Installation Drywall and Sheeting

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 Planning, Supervision and Consultation for Plasterboard Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate project WHS planning for wall and ceiling plasterboard works including steel stud and track installation, drywall hanging and finishing Lack of consultation with workers and subcontractors about specific plasterboard activities such as cutting, drilling, and installing corner beads Insufficient supervisory presence to monitor high-risk activities and enforce WHS policies Poor coordination between builders, plasterers, electricians and other trades leading to uncontrolled simultaneous works Failure to identify and document specific WHS legal duties under the WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations for plasterboard tasks No clear allocation of WHS responsibilities between principal contractor, subcontractors and labour hire providers Inadequate planning for site pressure causing unsafe work practices or fatigue 	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a project-specific WHS Management Plan that explicitly covers plasterboard, drywall and steel stud activities in accordance with WHS Act 2011 and relevant WHS Regulations Establish documented WHS consultation arrangements (e.g. toolbox talks, pre-start meetings) that specifically include plasterboard crews and subcontractors Assign competent supervisors for plasterboard operations with clear authority to stop work when controls are not in place Integrate plasterboard work sequencing into the overall construction program to minimise trade overlap and congestion in confined rooms and corridors Document roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for WHS across principal contractor, plasterboard contractor, supervisor and workers Incorporate plasterboard work methods, including cutting, fixing and corner installations, into site-wide registers and review them regularly Include WHS performance and compliance with plasterboard procedures as a standing agenda item in the coordination meetings Plan realistic timeframes and resourcing for plasterboard installation to reduce time pressure and associated unsafe shortcuts 	3H
2. Design, Engineering and Structural Coordination for Plasterboard and Framing Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate structural design or specification of steel stud and track systems supporting plasterboard walls and ceilings Lack of coordination between services design (electrical, plumbing, HVAC) and plasterboard layouts leading to unplanned cutting or drilling into critical elements Use of incompatible fasteners, anchors or track systems not suited to building substrate or environment Absence of engineered design for suspended ceilings or heavy plasterboard linings 	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all steel stud, track and plasterboard systems are designed and certified by competent designers in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and NCC requirements Implement a formal design coordination process (clash detection, coordinated drawings) to minimise post-installation cutting, drilling and rework of plasterboard Specify approved proprietary systems (studs, tracks, anchors, screws, corner beads) with clear installation manuals available on site Require engineering certification for suspended ceilings, bulkheads and heavy sheeting systems including hangers and fixings Include definitive documentation of fixing spacings, anchor capacities and allowable penetrations within design and work packs Establish a design change management procedure so any site-initiated variations (e.g. moving services) are reviewed and approved by a competent designer before work proceeds 	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear specifications for fire-rated and acoustic plasterboard systems resulting in non-compliant installations Inadequate documentation of fixing patterns, anchor types and load capacities for drywall anchors and screws 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that penetrations through fire and acoustic systems are designed and detailed to maintain required ratings and are clearly marked 	
3. Procurement and Selection of Materials, Tools and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of low-quality plasterboard, steel studs, tracks and corner beads that are prone to breakage or failure during handling and installation Use of non-compliant or inappropriate drywall anchors, screws and fixings for substrate and load conditions Insufficient number of lifting aids, plasterboard trolleys, panel lifters or mechanical aids leading to manual handling overload Use of high-vibration or poorly maintained power tools for cutting and drilling plasterboard Lack of dust control accessories for electric saws and cutting equipment Inadequate lighting and temporary power equipment for internal plasterboard works 	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a procurement procedure specifying minimum standards and certifications for plasterboard, steel studs, tracks, corner beads and fixings in line with manufacturer and Australian Standard requirements Standardise and approve drywall anchors, screws and fastener systems with documented performance characteristics and application limits Procure efficient mechanical aids such as plasterboard panel lifters, trolleys, height-adjustable trestles and various assisted lifters appropriate to the scale of works Require all possible electric saws, drills and cutting tools to be low-vibration models where reasonably practicable and compatible with local dust extraction attachments Specify that all power tools and extension leads used for plasterboard works comply with AS/NZS 3760 testing and tagging requirements Ensure adequate temporary lighting and power distribution is procured and designed to provide safe illumination for cutting, measuring and fixing works Include supplier documentation and safe use guidelines with all specialised plasterboard systems and tools 	2M
4. Worker Competency, Induction and Training for Plasterboard Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers undertaking plasterboard installation, cutting and drilling without formal competency or experience Lack of training in safe manual handling of large plasterboard sheets and steel studs Inadequate instruction on safe use of electric saws, drills and other powered cutting tools on plasterboard Poor awareness of fire-rated and acoustic system requirements during installation, trimming and rework Insufficient training in working at height when fixing ceiling plasterboard or high wall sections 	4A	<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"> Failure to recognise signs of fatigue, strain injuries and cumulative musculoskeletal issues 		[REDACTED]	
5. Manual Handling and Ergonomic Risk Management for Plasterboard and Framing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musculoskeletal strain from lifting, carrying and hanging large plasterboard sheets on ceilings and walls Awkward postures when fixing drywall screws overhead or in confined areas Repetitive movements when installing screws, anchors, track systems and corner beads Forceful pushing and manipulating of drywall panels to align with steel studs and tracks Inadequate system for assessing panel sizes, weights and handling methods prior to delivery to workface Poor planning for team lifting and coordination when working around other trades and obstacles 	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
6. Work at Height, Access and Fall Prevention for Wall and Ceiling Plasterboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls from temporary platforms, step ladders or trestles while handling plasterboard or fixing wall studs Use of makeshift platforms (e.g. stacked materials) to gain height for trimming or drilling into plasterboard Inadequate system for inspection and maintenance of mobile scaffolds and work platforms used by plasterboard crews Poor access planning leading to overreaching or unstable body positions during installation of drywall track systems and corner installations Failure to control exclusion zones below elevated plasterboard works where falling objects may strike others 	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
7. Cutting, Drilling and Penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncontrolled cutting and drilling into plasterboard walls and ceilings striking 	4A	[REDACTED]	2M

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Management for Plasterboard Systems	<p>concealed electrical services, plumbing or structural elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a documented process to authorise penetrations, particularly in fire-rated or acoustic systems Use of electric saws and drills without appropriate jigs or guides leading to loss of control and laceration risks Generation of excessive noise and vibration affecting workers and adjacent trades Unplanned enlargement of openings when replacing damaged sections of previously hung drywall 		[REDACTED]	
8. Dust, Silica, Noise and Hazardous Substances Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generation of airborne dust during cutting and trimming plasterboard with hand tools and electric saws Potential silica exposure from certain lining products, jointing compounds or substrate materials Exposure to noise from continual use of power saws, drills and screw guns in confined internal areas Lack of systems for cleaning and housekeeping leading to accumulation of dust and offcuts Use of adhesives, sealants, paints or jointing compounds without adequate ventilation or controls 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
9. Storage, Handling and Housekeeping for Plasterboard, Studs and Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unstable stacking of plasterboard sheets leading to collapse or sliding panels Poorly stored steel studs, track and corner beads causing trip hazards and uncontrolled movement 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate segregation of walkways from stored plasterboard and framing materials Water damage to stored plasterboard creating manual handling and mould risks Accumulation of offcuts, packaging and rubbish in work areas obstructing access and emergency egress 		[REDACTED]	
10. Electrical Safety, Temporary Services and Plant Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact with live electrical services while drilling into existing plasterboard walls and ceilings Use of defective or untested portable electrical equipment for cutting and drilling plasterboard Inadequate coordination between plasterboard crews and electricians resulting in exposed wiring behind linings Plant and vehicle interactions when moving plasterboard packs and steel studs around site Trailing leads and temporary power boards creating trip hazards in confined rooms and corridors 	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
11. Quality Assurance, System Integrity and Rework Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compromising fire, acoustic or structural performance of plasterboard systems through unapproved penetrations, trimming or modifications Inadequate inspection of corner bead applications, internal and external corner sequences, and joint details leading to premature failure Rework caused by mis-measured cuts, incorrect track layouts or poor sequencing, increasing exposure to hazards Lack of systematic verification that drywall anchors and fixings are installed to specification 	3H	[REDACTED]	1L

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to document non-conformances and corrective actions related to plasterboard works 		[REDACTED]	
12. Contractor Management, Subcontractor Control and Labour Hire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of subcontractors for plasterboard and steel stud works without robust WHS prequalification Inconsistent WHS standards between principal contractor and plasterboard subcontractors Labour hire workers not inducted into site-specific plasterboard hazards and procedures Lack of clarity over who provides and maintains equipment such as panel lifters, access platforms and power tools Inadequate monitoring of subcontractor compliance with WHS obligations under the WHS Act 2011 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
13. Incident Reporting, Health Monitoring and Return to Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-reporting of strains, sprains and near misses associated with plasterboard handling and installation Delayed treatment of cumulative musculoskeletal injuries in plasterboard workers No structured health monitoring for workers exposed to dust, noise and repetitive tasks associated with plasterboard operations Poorly managed return-to-work processes leading to reinjury when plasterboard tasks are resumed Failure to analyse plasterboard-related incidents for systemic causes 	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
14. Emergency Preparedness and First Aid for Internal Plasterboard Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient emergency planning for work in enclosed rooms and multi-storey areas where plasterboard is installed Delayed access for emergency responders due to obstructed routes or stacked plasterboard 	3H	[REDACTED]	1L

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of first aid resources suited to common plasterboard injuries such as cuts, eye injuries and strains Workers unaware of evacuation procedures when using power tools in dusty or low-visibility environments 		<div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>	

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.