

Rendering External Walls

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, Legal Compliance and PCBU Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate understanding of WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation requirements relating to construction work and high risk construction work Lack of clear allocation of WHS duties between PCBU, principal contractor, subcontractors and labour hire providers Absence of documented WHS management system specific to rendering external walls on construction sites Failure to ensure worker consultation, participation and issue resolution processes are in place Insufficient due diligence by officers to verify that WHS obligations are being met No process for verifying that required licences, tickets and construction induction (White Card) are current 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a documented WHS Management Plan aligned with the WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulation and relevant Codes of Practice for construction work and working at height, with specific reference to rendering external walls Clearly define PCBU and officer responsibilities, including delegations for WHS decision-making, budget authority and performance monitoring related to rendering activities Establish documented processes to verify that all workers and subcontractors hold current White Cards, high risk work licences (where applicable, e.g. scaffolding boom-type EWP) and other competency evidence before commencing work Include rendering external walls as a defined construction work activity in the project WHS Management Plan, with criteria for when it becomes high risk construction work (e.g. risk of fall >2 m, work on or near live electrical installation) Implement a regular WHS compliance audit program (internal or third-party) focusing on key risk areas for rendering such as falls, silica and hazardous chemicals Establish a formal WHS consultation framework (e.g. HSRs, toolbox talks, safety committees) that explicitly includes rendering subcontractors and labour hire workers in planning and review of work Require officers to review WHS reports, lead and lag indicators, and corrective actions relating to rendering at scheduled governance meetings and document due diligence activities 	Medium
2. Design, Planning and Engineering Controls for External Wall Rendering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor integration of WHS requirements into design and project planning for façades and external walls Design of building envelope that makes safe access for rendering difficult or impossible (e.g. complex façades, overhangs, limited anchor points) Inadequate planning of perimeter protection, fall arrest systems and access equipment required for rendering operations Lack of engineering review of wall substrates, fixings and structural capacity to support scaffolds, swing stages or anchorage points No systematic design-stage consideration of manual handling, material delivery routes and waste removal for render products 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed WHS design review processes (Safety in Design) into project planning to identify and eliminate or minimise rendering risks at the earliest stage, documenting decisions and residual risks Require designers to consider safe access for application of render, including allowance for scaffolds, mast climbers, EWPs, anchor points and loading bays in the building design and documentation Undertake an engineering assessment of façade structures and connection points to verify suitability for proposed access systems (scaffolds, swing stages, permanent anchor points) used during rendering Develop a rendering-specific access and edge-protection plan that defines where scaffolding, guardrails, mesh, toeboards, EWPs and other systems will be used and how they will be maintained Plan for material handling logistics in the construction methodology, including location of loading zones, hoists, mechanical aids and waste chutes to minimise manual handling and congestion Include in the construction program dedicated time windows and work zones for rendering, with clear separation from other high-risk activities and from public/pedestrian areas Document design assumptions and controls in project specifications, subcontractor scopes of work and pre-start planning documentation 	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient planning for segregation of rendering work areas from public, occupants and other trades 			
3. Contractor and Subcontractor Management for Rendering Trades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of rendering contractors based solely on price without adequate WHS capability assessment Subcontractors lacking documented WHS procedures for high-risk activities such as work at height, silica and hazardous chemicals Inconsistent WHS standards across multiple subcontractors working on the same façade or project Insufficient oversight of labour hire workers performing rendering tasks under different PCBUs No formal process for reviewing and approving Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) for high-risk construction work associated with rendering Inadequate monitoring of contractor performance against WHS requirements during the project lifecycle 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a prequalification process for rendering contractors that assesses WHS management systems, incident history, training programs and competency in managing high-risk construction work Include clear WHS performance requirements and reporting obligations in contracts and scopes of work for rendering subcontractors and labour hire providers Require submission and formal review of task-specific SWMS for rendering high-risk activities (e.g. working at height, use of EWPs, silica generating tasks) prior to commencement of work Establish a documented system for verifying that subcontractor WHS procedures (including for hazardous chemicals, plant, and emergency response) meet or exceed principal contractor standards Assign competent supervisors or WHS coordinators to regularly monitor rendering works, conduct joint inspections with subcontractors and record non-conformances and corrective actions Include WHS performance measures and consequences (e.g. suspension of work, demobilisation) in subcontract agreements for serious or repeated non-compliance Ensure clear coordination arrangements between PCBUs for labour hire workers, including written agreements describing who manages day-to-day WHS supervision, training and consultation for rendering tasks 	Medium
4. Work at Height and Access Systems Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic failure to plan and control work at height for erection and rendering activities Inadequate selection, design, installation or inspection of scaffolding, swing stages, mast climbers or EWPs used for rendering façades Lack of formal processes for controlling unauthorised modification or removal of scaffold components, edge protection or anchors Insufficient competency assurance for persons erecting, altering or dismantling scaffolds and operating EWPs No documented system for managing exclusion zones under work at height for falling objects during rendering 	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate process for out-of-service tagging and rectification of defective access equipment 		[REDACTED]	
5. Hazardous Chemicals and Material Safety Management (Renders, Additives and Sealants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a systematic approach to identifying, approving and controlling hazardous chemicals used in rendering mixes, primers, bonding agents and sealers Inadequate management of Safety Data Sheets (SDS), leading to workers being unaware of health hazards and control requirements Failure to consider compatibility of render products with substrates and environmental conditions, increasing risk of product failure and remedial work at height Poor systems for storage, labelling and decanting of hazardous chemicals on multi-storey scaffolds and work platforms Insufficient planning for ventilation and exposure control when using solvent-based products and spray-applied render systems No formal process for chemical spill preparedness, response and waste disposal on construction sites 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium
6. Silica, Dust and Health Exposure Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic underestimation of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) risks from mixing, cutting, grinding and chasing associated with render and substrates Lack of a formal silica exposure control plan covering rendering tasks and associated preparation works on masonry, concrete or fibre-cement substrates Inadequate systems for provision, fit-testing and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No program for health monitoring for workers who may be exposed to RCS above baseline levels over time Uncontrolled generation and spread of nuisance and hazardous dust affecting other workers, neighbouring properties and the public Insufficient integration of dust control measures (e.g. water suppression, on-tool extraction) into procurement and planning processes 		[REDACTED]	
7. Plant, Equipment and Maintenance Systems for Rendering Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate management of plant used for rendering, such as mixers, pumps, hoists, compressors and powered tools Lack of systematic pre-use inspection and maintenance leading to plant failure, leaks or unintended movement on scaffolds or platforms Inappropriate selection of plant for height, reach or load requirements of external wall rendering Electrical risks from poorly maintained portable electrical equipment, temporary power systems used with rendering plant Noise and vibration exposure from continuous use of powered tools without management controls No formal process for isolating, tagging and repairing defective plant associated with rendering 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium
8. Manual Handling, Ergonomics and Work Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic under-planning of manual handling risks associated with lifting, carrying and applying heavy bags of render, buckets and equipment on external walls No structured assessment of repetitive or sustained postures involved in 	Medium	[REDACTED]	Low

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	<p>trowelling, floating and finishing render on façades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffective work organisation leading to excessive reach, twisting and overextension when applying render from scaffolds and platforms • Insufficient provision or planning for mechanical aids or hoisting systems to move render materials to higher levels • Fatigue and musculoskeletal disorders due to prolonged work periods without rotation or adequate rest • Inadequate training of supervisors in identifying early signs of manual handling risks and implementing controls 		[REDACTED]	
9. Training, Competency and Supervision for Rendering Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of structured competency requirements for workers and supervisors involved in rendering external walls • Inadequate induction and site-specific training addressing the particular risks rendering façades at height • Supervisors not competent in WHS risk management for high-risk construction work associated with rendering • Inconsistent communication of changes to methods, products or equipment used in rendering operations • Insufficient literacy or language support for workers to understand SWMS, SDS and site rules • No formal verification of on-the-job competency before workers undertake higher-risk rendering tasks independently 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium
10. Site Coordination, Traffic and Public Interface Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor coordination of rendering works with other trades leading to congestion on scaffolds and façades 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials and equipment for rendering blocking access ways, emergency egress routes or fire systems Uncontrolled interaction between rendering activities and site traffic, including delivery vehicles and mobile plant Inadequate separation of public, building occupants and visitors from external wall rendering work areas Falling render, tools or debris impacting people below due to insufficient exclusion zones or catch systems Inconsistent communication with neighbouring properties or tenants regarding noisy or dusty rendering operations 		[REDACTED]	
11. Emergency Preparedness, Incident Management and First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of rendering-specific emergency planning for incidents occurring on scaffolds, EWPs or elevated platforms Inadequate capability to rescue workers from height or from difficult façade locations during a medical emergency or fall arrest Insufficient first aid coverage for chemical splashes, eye injuries, respiratory distress or acute musculoskeletal injuries associated with rendering Poor incident reporting and investigation processes resulting in repeated rendering-related incidents Confusion regarding roles and responsibilities between principal contractor, rendering subcontractor and emergency services during an incident 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium
12. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to systematically monitor the effectiveness of WHS controls specific to external wall rendering 	Medium	[REDACTED]	Low

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Rendering WHS Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate use of leading indicators (e.g. inspection findings, near misses) to identify emerging risks in rendering activities Lack of formal review of SWMS, procedures and training content when incidents or significant changes occur Poor capture and transfer of lessons learned from one project to another where similar rendering methods are used Complacency over time leading to erosion of safety standards and normalisation of deviance in rendering practices 		<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100%; position: relative;"> SAMPLE </div>	

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.