Safety Net and Mesh Installation

Business Name:	ABN:	
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE 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:

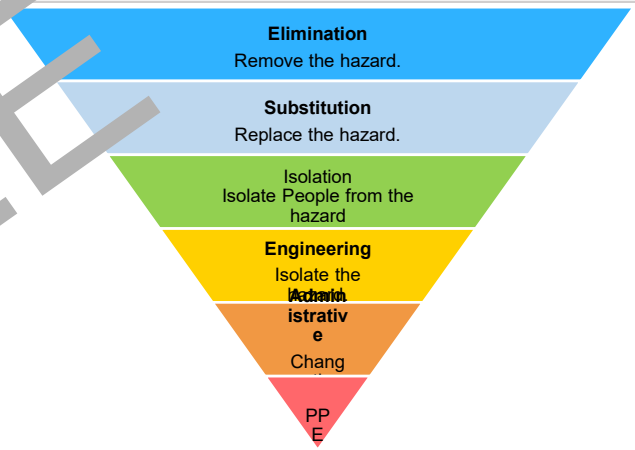
CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

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
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Rev before work
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACU	2M MO RATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 H	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS



Risk Rating & Required Action:

4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. E inate the hazar redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or hi er-level authorisati is required.
3H	Review and approve additional c rols b ask arts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in ace and effe ive. 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, Roles and Responsibilities	• Unclear PCBU, officer and worker responsibilities for safety net and mesh activities leading to gaps in oversight • Lack of due diligence by officers under WHS Act 2011 resulting in inadequate resourcing and monitoring of high-risk work • No formal appointment of competent person to manage safety net and mesh installation systems • Inadequate consultation, cooperation and coordination between principal contractor, subcontractors and netting installers • Failure to integrate safety net and mesh risks into the broader WHS management system and project WHS plan	4A	• Define and document WHS governance stru e for safety net and mesh installation, including clear PCBU, officer, supervisor and worker resp bilities • Ensure officers demonstrate due diligence b egu y reviewing safety net and mesh risk controls, resourcing, training and incident data in accord e with WHS A 2011 s27 • Formally appoint a compete afety net and me coordi or / representative with authority to stop work where systems are non-co liant • Embed safety n and m risks to the proje WHS management plan, including interfaces with crane operati , scaffoldi structu steel ction and other high-risk work • Implement do mented nsultation p esses (toolbox talks, pre-starts, coordination meetings) specific to ne works co y with WHS Act 2011 s47–49 • Estal sh syste r regular management review of safety net and mesh performance indicators, audit findings nd rrectiv ctions	3H
2. Design, Procurement and Suitability of Safety Nets and Mesh Systems	• Use of non-compliant or unsuitable safety nets, mesh or edge protection systems for the intended span, fall height and load • Lack of engineering erification of net layout, anchorage nts and deflection clearances • Procurement based cost rather n compliance with AS/NZS 4389 and manufacturer specifications • Use of incompatible components (e.g. mixed proprietary systems, non-rated connectors, uncertified rigging gear) • Failure to consider interaction between safety nets, debris mesh, temporary works and permanent structural design	4A	• plement a procurement policy requiring safety nets, mesh and associated hardware to comply with relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS/NZS 4389) and be supported by certificates of conformity • Require engineering design or verification for safety net layouts, including anchorage points, maximum spans, sag, fall height, and clearance above ground or obstructions • Maintain an approved products list for netting and mesh systems, including registered suppliers, model numbers, load ratings and compatible components • Require all rigging, anchorage and fixing components to be rated, traceable and compatible with the selected net system, verified by the competent person prior to use • Integrate safety net and mesh system requirements into project design reviews, temporary works procedures and structural engineering documentation • Establish a formal technical review and sign-off process for any variations or non-standard net configurations	2M
3. Engineering Design, Calculations and Structural Interface	• Incorrect calculation of loads, spans and deflection for safety nets and mesh, leading to structural failure or inadequate fall protection • Insufficient capacity or stiffness of supporting steelwork, concrete elements	4A	• Require all safety net and mesh layouts, including edge fixings, tie-off points and support structures, to be designed or verified by a suitably qualified engineer • Ensure engineering documentation specifies allowable loads, maximum spans, anchor spacing, deflection clearances and limitations on combined use with debris mesh • Implement a structural approval process for all anchorage locations on permanent or temporary structures, including avoidance of untested fixings or undersized elements	2M

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
	or temporary structures to take net reaction forces • Unverified or ad-hoc anchor locations without structural approval • Design not accounting for dynamic loads from falls, impact of tools and materials or wind loading on debris mesh • Lack of integration between structural design, temporary works and safety net configuration		• Include safety net and mesh loading scenarios (including potential multiple-person falls and dropped objects) in the structural and temporary works design assumptions • Mandate formal design change control for any onsi deviation from the approved safety net and mesh design, with written engineering approval • Retain engineering calculations, drawings d approval cords in the project document control system and make them accessible to supervisors ar installer	
4. Contractor Prequalification, Competency and Licensing	• Engagement of installers without verified competency in rigging safety nets, mesh and related fall arrest systems • Inadequate verification of high-risk work licences (e.g. dogging, rigging) and construction induction training • Subcontractor selection driven by pri rather than demonstrated WHS performance and system maturity • No system for managin petency of labour hire or shor m workers involved in netting sks • Failure to verify t sup understand manufac instruction and relevant standards for safety ne installation and removal	H	[redacted]	2M
5. Training, Induction and Information for Workers	• Workers unaware of system limitations, load ratings and correct use of safety nets and mesh • Inadequate training in hazard identification relating to working at height, rigging and suspended loads • Failure to communicate site-specific procedures for installing, inspecting and removing protective netting • Inconsistent understanding of exclusion zones, rescue procedures and interaction with other trades	3H	[redacted]	2M

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
	• Language barriers or literacy issues preventing comprehension of critical safety information		[redacted]	
6. Planning, Methodology and Work Sequencing	• Poor planning of safety net and mesh installation leading to ad-hoc methods and shortcuts • Inadequate coordination with structural steel erection, formwork, scaffolding and crane operations • Work sequencing that requires installers to work outside protected areas or beyond the reach of installed nets • Insufficient planning for installation or removal of protective netting during staged construction or demolition • No formal process to assess changes in site conditions that affect netting effectiveness (e.g. new penetrations, temporary openings, altered structural members)	4A	[redacted]	2M
7. Integration with Fall Prevention, Restraint and Collective Protection	• Over-reliance on safety nets as a primary fall control instead of higher order controls • Conflicting or overlapping fall protection systems (e.g. harness restraint, guardrails, safety nets) creating confusion • Unclear hierarchy of control leading to inappropriate use of personal fall-arrest systems above nets • Inadequate edge protection or access ways during netting installation and removal activities • Failure to control openings, voids and penetrations adjacent to or above safety nets and mesh	3H	[redacted]	2M

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
8. Equipment, Inspection, Tagging and Maintenance Systems	• Degraded, damaged or expired safety nets, mesh and rigging equipment remaining in service • Inconsistent or undocumented inspection regimes for nets, ropes, karabiners, shackles and fixings • Failure to remove equipment from service following exposure to excessive loads, UV degradation or chemical contamination • Missing or illegible identification tags, batch numbers and certificates for netting systems • Lack of secure storage leading to damage, deterioration or loss of traceability	4A	[redacted]	2M
9. Site Access, Exclusion Zones and Public Protection	• Persons working or passing below areas where safety net and mesh installation or removal is occurring bei struck by falling objects • Unauthorised access s under o within netting syste , particularly during rigging or d antling • Inadequate segreg tween construction work, public areas and adjoining properties • Failure to control vehicl ant movements in proximity to temporary support structures and net anchor points • Insufficient communication of exclusion zones to other trades, visitors and the public	3H	[redacted]	2M
10. Environmental and Weather Management for Netting Activities	• High winds increasing loads on nets and mesh or destabilising workers during installation and removal • Wet or icy surfaces increasing slip risk for installers accessing anchorage points	3H	[redacted]	2M

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
	• UV exposure and weathering degrading net and mesh materials beyond their rated life • Inadequate planning for storm events, including risk of nets acting as sails and stressing structures • Reduced visibility (fog, rain, low light) leading to mis-rigging or missed defects		[redacted]	
11. Interaction with Plant, Cranes and Mobile Elevated Work Platforms	• Collision between cranes, EWPs or other plant and safety nets, mesh or supporting structures • Lifting operations interfering with netting layout or compromising anchor integrity • Uncontrolled movement of loads above or within netted areas without appropriate controls • Lack of coordination between crane crews, riggers and net installers leadi to conflicting tasks • Plant outriggers or stabi being se up on surfaces influe ed by net suppor structures or temp ary works	3H	[redacted]	2M
12. Emergency Planning, Rescue and Incident Management	• Lack of a practicable rescue plan fo a person who has fallen into a safet et • Delayed emergency resp due to unclear communication protocols or inaccessible locations • Secondary falls or injuries during attempted rescue from nets or mesh structures • Inadequate post-incident management, including failure to quarantine equipment or notify regulators where required • Psychological harm to workers involved in or witnessing fall-into-net incidents without appropriate support	4A	[redacted]	2M

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
13. Documentation, Records and Change Management	• Incomplete or inaccurate records of net layouts, anchor points, inspections and certifications • Uncontrolled changes to netting configuration or support structures without review • Loss of historical data on load events, repairs or modifications to nets and mesh • Obsolete procedures or manufacturer instructions remaining in circulation • Inability to demonstrate compliance during regulator inspections or investigations	3H	[redacted]	1L
14. Fatigue, Work Hours and Supervision Quality	• Fatigued workers making poor decisions during complex rigging and netting activities • Insufficient supervision of high-risk installation or removal tasks, particular during night or weekend works • Extended shifts or co d programs pressuri orkers to rush netting and mesh ivities • Supervisors lacki im conduc required inspections and verification due to workload • Inadequate escalation c ns when workers identify unsafe netting configurations or conditions	H	[redacted]	2M
15. Audit, Monitoring and Continuous Improvement	• Systemic weaknesses in safety net and mesh controls remaining undetected over multiple projects • Complacency leading to drift from approved procedures and engineering designs • Failure to learn from internal and industry incidents involving falls, net failures or rigging errors	3H	[redacted]	1L

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
	• Inconsistent monitoring of contractor performance and adherence to WHS requirements • Lack of leading indicators to identify deteriorating safety culture around netting activities		[redacted]	

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

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-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/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

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.

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

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

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

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