Side Loader Trailer			
Business Name:		ABN:	
Business Address:			
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:	

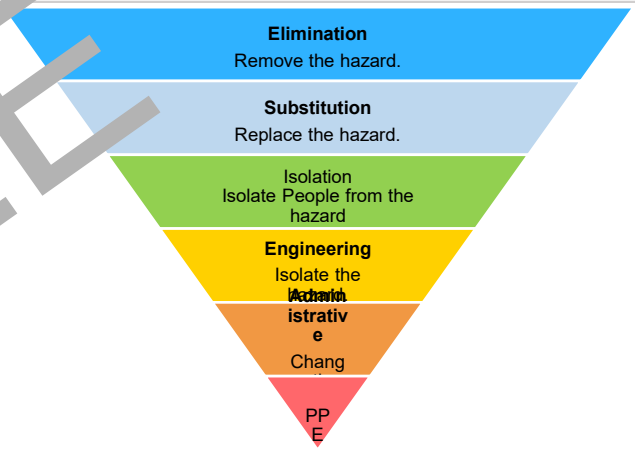
THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT		
Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.		
Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

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. Vehicle Procurement and Design Selection	• Procurement of side loader trailers and prime movers that are not fit for purpose or non-compliant with Australian Standards and ADRs • Inadequate specification of rated capacity, dynamic load limits and stability for side lifter operation with varying container weights and ground conditions • Lack of integrated safety features (e.g. interlocks, stability monitoring, emergency stop systems, load indicators, slew and outrigger sensors) • Poor visibility from the prime mover cab and around the side lifter operating zone, increasing risk of person–plant interaction incidents • Incompatibility between tractor and trailer (braking performance, suspension, electrical systems) affecting stability and control during lifting and transport • Failure to specify engineered anchorage points, container twist locks, and restraint systems suitable for all intended container types • Selection of side loader control systems that are overly complex or not intuitive, increasing error risk for operators and offsiders • Inadequate provision for safe access and egress (steps, handrails, non-slip surfaces) on the trailer for inspections and minor adjustments	High	• Develop and implement a documented procurement policy requiring all side loader trailers and prime movers to comply with WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations, relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS 1418 lifting devices, AS/NZS 4024 machine safety), ADRs and NHVR requirements • Use a structured engineering specification for side loader trailers that addresses rated capacity, load charts, stability margins, ground bearing requirements, container configurations, and interface with prime movers • Require suppliers to provide third-party design verification or manufacturer's conformity documentation for lifting structures, hydraulic systems and stability controls • Mandate critical safety features in purchasing specifications, including dual emergency stop devices, load monitoring, tilt/stability alarms, interlocks that prevent unsafe configurations, and lock-out capability for maintenance • Include requirements for adequate lighting, cameras or proximity sensors and signage to improve visibility around the operating envelope, particularly on the lifting side and rear of the vehicle • Ensure trailer and prime mover combinations are assessed for compatibility (GCM, axle loads, braking performance, suspension type, electronic braking systems) and documented in fleet configuration records • Specify tested and certified container restraint systems, including twist locks, chains, and lashing equipment suitable for the maximum intended load and expected operating conditions • Require safe access features (stairs, grab rails, anti-slip surfaces, working platforms where necessary) to be incorporated into trailer design in consultation with operators • Undertake pre-delivery inspections using a standard checklist to verify all specified safety features, documentation and compliance plates are present and functional before acceptance into service • Maintain procurement records including risk assessments, supplier evaluations, design drawings, manuals and certifications for the life of the equipment	Medium
2. Governance, WHS Management System and Legal Compliance	• Lack of clear allocation of WHS duties for PCBUs, officers, managers and supervisors in relation to side loader trailer operations • WHS management system not tailored to specific risks of side lifter-articulated trucks (lifting, stability, road transport, load restraint, traffic interaction)	High	• Document and communicate WHS roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for officers, managers, supervisors, schedulers, mechanics and drivers involved in side loader operations, aligned to WHS Act 2011 duties • Integrate side loader operations into the organisation's WHS management system, including risk registers, standard procedures, training frameworks and performance measures • Develop a specific side loader WHS risk assessment and keep it current, ensuring it covers lifting operations, loading/unloading, site interfaces, travel, and maintenance activities	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Poor integration between safety, fleet management and operations systems leading to gaps in hazard reporting and incident response • Failure to systematically identify, assess and control risks associated with side loader operations as required under the WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations • Inadequate monitoring of compliance with chain of responsibility and heavy vehicle national law obligations (mass, dimension, loading, fatigue, speed) • Lack of consultation with workers, health and safety representatives, and contractors about side loader-related risks and control measures • Insufficient review of risk assessments and procedures following incidents, near misses, plant changes, or legislative updates		• Implement a governance framework that aligns WHS, fleet management, fatigue management and chain of responsibility obligations, with regular reporting to senior management • Establish a system for regular consultation with workers and health and safety representatives on side loader hazards, proposed controls, changes to equipment and operating practices • Ensure documented policies and procedures reference applicable legislation, Codes of Practice (e.g. Managing risks of plant in the workplace, Load restraint guide) and industry guidelines for side lifter operations • Introduce a formal change management process (MOC) for any modifications to trailers, lifting equipment, routes, scheduling practices or operating conditions, including risk assessment and worker consultation • Schedule periodic internal audits and, where appropriate, external audits of compliance with WHS, heavy vehicle national law, and company procedures relating to side loader use • Track and close out corrective actions from audits, inspections and incident investigations in a central action management system with clear ownership and due dates • Report WHS performance metrics specific to side loader operations (incidents, near misses, equipment failures, training completion, maintenance compliance) to the leadership team on a regular basis	
3. Driver and Operator Competency Management	• Drivers and operators using side lifters without adequate competency-based training or verification of skills • Failure to recognise that side loader operation is a high risk activity requiring specific knowledge of load dynamics and stability • Inconsistent understanding of safe operating limits, load charts, ground conditions and environmental constraints among operators • No formal assessment of contractors' competency to operate side lifter-articulated trucks on behalf of the PCBU • Insufficient training on emergency procedures, malfunction response, and isolation of hydraulic and electrical systems • Complacency or drift from safe practices over time due to lack of refresher training and supervision	High	• Implement a documented competency management system for side loader drivers and operators, including role profiles, required licences, training modules and assessment criteria • Require completion of formal training specific to side lifter operation (theory and practical) covering load dynamics, stability, load charts, ground conditions, exclusion zones, and manufacturer instructions • Introduce a verification of competency (VOC) process for all side loader operators prior to unsupervised work, with periodic re-assessment at defined intervals or after incidents • Ensure drivers hold appropriate heavy vehicle licences and are assessed for safe driving behaviours, defensive driving, and heavy vehicle handling of side loader combinations • Assess and document the competency of labour hire workers and contractors, requiring evidence of training, VOC results and references before engagement • Provide structured training on emergency procedures, including hydraulic failure, load shift, roll-over risk, contact with overhead services, and plant isolation/lock-out • Develop and deliver refresher training at scheduled intervals or when significant changes occur (equipment upgrades, new control systems, revised procedures, new routes) • Adapt training materials for workers with language, literacy or numeracy challenges using visual aids, translated content, and practical demonstration techniques • Maintain a centralised training and competency register that records all licences, training courses, VOC outcomes and expiry dates for side loader operators	Medium

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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, literacy or numeracy barriers reducing understanding of procedures and safety information		• Require supervisors to conduct competency checks and coaching in the field, documenting observations and corrective actions where unsafe practices are identified	
4. Operational Procedures and Work Instruction Systems	• Lack of standardised operating procedures for side lifter operations, leading to inconsistent and unsafe practices between drivers and depots • Procedures not reflecting manufacturer guidance or site-specific risks such as slope, ground strength, and overhead obstructions • Work instructions focusing only on driving tasks and not on system-level controls for lifting, staging, waiting zones and site interface • Outdated, inaccessible or overly complex documentation that operators do not read or follow • No specific procedures for abnormal, high-risk or non-standard lifts (e.g. overweight containers, d[redacted]ed containers, restricted [redacted]es) • Insufficient guida[redacted]e on safe communication pr[redacted]cols h[redacted] drivers, offsiders, sp[redacted], site personnel and traffic controllers • Failure to include emerg[redacted]ncy contingency procedures in operational documentation	High	[redacted]	Medium
5. Journey Management and Scheduling Systems	• Inadequate journey planning that fails to consider route suitability for side lifter-articulated trucks (road width, turning radius, overhead clearances, ground conditions at delivery points) • Unrealistic schedules and delivery time pressures that encourage speeding, shortcutting safety checks or unsafe side loader operation	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Insufficient integration of fatigue management requirements into scheduling for drivers operating side lifters on long or complex routes • Lack of communication systems and escalation pathways for drivers to report unsafe delivery locations, changed site conditions or delays • Poor coordination between dispatch, customers and drivers leading to congestion, queuing and ad-hoc lifting in unsafe areas • Failure to account for weather conditions (wind, heavy rain, flooding) that affect side lifter stability and road safety		[redacted]	
6. Site and Interface Management (Customer, Depot and Public Areas)	• Delivery and pick-up sites (including customer premises, depots and public roadsides) not formally assessed for side lifter suitability • Uncontrolled interaction between side loader vehicles, pedestrians, forklifts and other mobile plant in loading zones and yards • Lack of agreed responsibilities between the PCBU and customers regarding site safety controls, exclusion zones and traffic management • Side lifter operation on unstable or uneven ground due to inadequate site preparation or lack of site information • Operation too close to public roads or footpaths without adequate segregation or traffic control arrangements • Inconsistent application of site induction requirements and local rules for side loader drivers and contractors	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
			[redacted]	
7. Plant Maintenance, Inspection and Engineering Control Systems	• Inadequate preventive maintenance and inspection regimes for trailers, cranes, hydraulic systems, brakes and stability components • Failure to detect or address critical defects such as structural cracks, hydraulic leaks, worn components or malfunctioning interlocks • Use of side loaders beyond their intended design life or with unapprove modifications due to poor engineering control • No system to ensu only approved and compatible att nments, spare parts and hydraulic com nents ar • Maintenance work pe formed witho appropriate isolation, lock-out and verification processes • Poor record keeping of maintenance, inspections, repairs and engineering changes	Hig	[redacted]	Medium
8. Load Management, Container Handling and Stability Controls	• Inadequate systems to ensure containers are within rated capacity and correctly distributed on the side lifter and trailer • Poor load information from customers, leading to underestimation of weight and	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	centre of gravity, increasing risk of overturning or structural failure • Lack of standardised processes for verifying load restraint and container condition prior to travel • Inconsistent practices for handling damaged, off-centre or partially loaded containers • Insufficient integration of load management systems with scheduling and dispatch processes, resulting in overloading or inappropriate equipment allocation		[redacted]	
9. Traffic Management, Road Interaction and Public Safety	• Side loader-articulated trucks operat[redacted] in mixed traffic environments without adequate planning for interaction with other road users • Inadequate manag[redacted]ment of reversing, turning and manoe[redacted]vring in confined spaces, increasing [redacted]ollision [redacted] • Poor visibility and blind spots arou[redacted] the side lifter particularly during roa[redacted]de or street-based operations • Insufficient controls to manage vehicle movements in depots and customer yards, including speed, parking and loading bay management • Lack of consistent communication and coordination with traffic controllers or spotters where they are used	High	[redacted]	Medium
10. Fatigue, Health and Fitness for Duty	• Drivers and operators of side loader-articulated trucks working excessive hours or irregular shifts, increasing fatigue-related risk	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
	• Insufficient consideration of the combined physical and cognitive demands of driving and side lifter operation • Lack of processes to manage medical conditions, medications, alcohol or other drugs that may impair performance • Inadequate support for mental health, stress and psychosocial factors affecting decision-making and attention • Poor alignment between organisational KPIs (e.g. on-time delivery) and safe working time expectations		[redacted]	
11. Contractor and Supply Chain Management	• Use of contractors and subcontractors to operate side lifter-articulated trucks without adequate WHS due diligence • Inconsistent safety standards, procedures and training levels between principal PCBU and co[illegible] parties • Poor communicat[illegible]n of hazards, site requirements and [illegible]ocedural c[illegible]s to contractors • Lack of monitoring and enforceme[illegible]of WHS performance expectations [illegible]in the transport supply chai[illegible] • Ambiguity regarding chain of responsibility roles across consignor, operator, loader and receiver for side loader work	High	[redacted]	Medium
12. Emergency Preparedness, Incident Management and Continuous Improvement	• Lack of structured planning for emergencies involving side loaders, such as roll-over, load collapse, hydraulic failure or contact with overhead services • Inadequate incident reporting and investigation processes leading to	High	[redacted]	Medium

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
	repeat events and missed learning opportunities • Poor coordination with emergency services due to absence of information about side loader configurations, loads and hazards • Workers uncertain about their roles and responsibilities in emergency and incident response • Failure to systematically review and improve risk controls over time		[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