

Static Line Systems

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. Design, Procurement and Certification of Static Line Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static line system designed or procured without reference to Australian Standards (e.g. AS/NZS 1891 series, AS/NZS 5532) and WHS Act 2011 primary duty of care requirements • Use of non-certified, counterfeit or undocumented components within the static line system • Inadequate engineering verification of load paths, anchor capacities, fixings and supporting structure integrity • Lack of formal designer risk assessments documenting foreseeable misuse, environmental conditions and system limitations • No requirement for competent height safety engineer involvement in design and specification • Procurement decisions driven solely cost rather than whole-of-life safety, inspection and maintenance requirements • Insufficient documentation from suppliers (e.g. no OEM manuals, installation drawings, performance data, compliance certificates) • Incompatibility between static line system and other fall protection equipment (harnesses, lanyards, shuttle devices, rescue systems) • Failure to consider foreseeable changes to building use, access frequency and maintenance methods in the design brief • Design that does not minimise the need to work at height in accordance with the hierarchy of control 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and implement a formal design and procurement procedure that requires all static line systems to comply with WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulations and relevant Australian Standards (AS/NZS 1891 series, AS/NZS 5532, AS/NZS 4422 or successors) • Require all static line designs to be completed or verified by a competent height safety engineer with demonstrated qualifications and experience, and maintain records of competency • Mandate written designer safety reports and risk assessments for each system, including assumptions, design limits, limitations of use, and foreseeable misuse scenarios • Implement a supplier pre-qualification process that verifies certification, insurances, references, and quality management systems for static line manufacturers and installers • Require certificates of compliance, engineering sign-off and installation drawings for each installed system to be retained in a central asset register • Specify minimum compatibility requirements for harnesses, lanyards, shuttles, connectors and rescue kits with the proposed static line system, and document approved equipment lists • Incorporate the hierarchy of control into design briefs, requiring consideration of elimination, substitution and engineering controls before relying on static line fall-arrest solutions • Include whole-of-life cost and maintainability criteria in procurement decisions, including inspection access, replacement parts, and training requirements • Implement a change management process for any design variation, ensuring re-certification and updated documentation where the system or structure is modified • Require independent design review for complex or multi-span systems, including structural adequacy of the supporting building elements 	Medium
2. Installation, Commissioning and Structural Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static line system installed by personnel without appropriate trade qualifications, training or manufacturer authorisation 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an installation procedure requiring that only competent and, where applicable, manufacturer-accredited installers undertake static line installations 	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixings and anchors not installed in accordance with design drawings, engineering specifications or manufacturer instructions Inadequate verification of the supporting structure (e.g. roof sheeting, purlins, concrete, masonry) prior to installation Lack of commissioning tests, pull tests or load verification resulting in unknown anchor capacities As-installed configuration differs from certified design (e.g. altered spans, incorrect terminations, unapproved components) Penetrations and fixings compromising waterproofing, corrosion protection or structural elements over time Absence of documented commissioning records, including test results, photographs, and as-built drawings Failure to integrate static line layout with other roof plant, walkways, ladders and access systems, leading to over-reaching or misuse Inadequate separation from electric services, skylights, fragile roofing and other critical hazards No clear allocation of responsibilities between builder, installer, engineer and PCBU for sign-off and handover 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require documented structural assessment of the supporting elements by a qualified engineer prior to installation, including confirmation of load paths and substrate suitability Mandate that all fixings and anchors are installed exactly in accordance with certified drawings and manufacturer instructions, with field variations prohibited without written engineering approval Introduce a formal commissioning process including pre-load tests or other verification methods as specified by standards and the manufacturer, with results recorded and retained Use an installation checklist and photographic evidence to confirm correct placement, component types, tensioning and terminations against design documents Require waterproofing and corrosion-protection details to be included in installation methodology, and coordinate with roofing contractor where applicable Develop a coordination process with other trades and designers to align static line routes with permanent access, walkways and plant locations to minimise overreach and awkward access Ensure minimum clearances from electrical services, fall edges, skylights and fragile surfaces are documented and verified on completion Establish a formal handover process that includes as-built drawings, engineering certificates, commissioning records, OEM manuals and maintenance requirements Record the static line system in the organisation's asset management system, including location, installation date, installer, and next inspection due date 	
3. Governance, WHS Management System and Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a documented organisational policy for working at heights and static line system management Unclear PCBU responsibilities under the WHS Act 2011 for static line ownership, control and maintenance where multiple duty holders are involved (e.g. landlord, tenant, contractor) No formal process to ensure current compliance with relevant WHS 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a formal working at heights policy that explicitly covers static line systems, aligned with the WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations Define and document PCBU roles and responsibilities for static line systems in leases, contracts and internal governance documents, ensuring shared duties are coordinated Establish a documented risk management procedure for working at heights, including identification, assessment, control and review of static line related risks Implement a legal and standards register that identifies applicable WHS legislation and Australian Standards for static line systems, with scheduled reviews for updates 	Medium

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	<p>Regulations and Australian Standards as they are updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate consultation with workers and health and safety representatives regarding static line system risks and controls Absence of a documented risk management procedure specifically addressing fall prevention and arrest systems Inconsistent application of procedures across different sites and business units leading to variable risk controls Poor integration of static line management into broader WHS management systems, including contractor management and change management Failure to maintain adequate records to demonstrate due diligence as required by the WHS Act 2011 No systematic assurance or audit programme to verify that static line systems are being managed in accordance with organisational requirements Weak enforcement of policies, resulting in non-compliance becoming normalised 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure regular consultation with workers, contractors and health and safety representatives about static line hazards, proposed controls and changes to systems Integrate static line management requirements into the organisation's WHS management system, including policies, procedures, forms and training plans Implement a documented contractor management process that requires evidence of safe work procedures, licences, insurances and competencies for any work using the static line Maintain comprehensive records of risk assessments, design documentation, inspections, training and incident investigations related to static line systems Introduce a periodic internal audit or assurance programme to review compliance with static line policies and procedures and take corrective actions Ensure senior management oversight including WHS performance reporting that incorporates static line system risks, incidents, and improvement actions 	
4. Competency, Training and Authorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers or contractors using static line systems without formal working at heights training to a nationally recognised standard Lack of site-specific familiarisation training on the particular static line layout, anchorage points, connection methods and rescue arrangements No competency assessment or verification of training currency prior to granting access to the system Over-reliance on generic toolbox talks instead of structured, documented training programmes 	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"> No clear authorisation process for who may use the static line system, supervise work at heights or perform rescues Insufficient training in inspection of personal protective equipment (PPE) and fall-arrest devices used with the static line Inadequate understanding of the hierarchy of control, leading to unnecessary reliance on static line systems where safer options are available No training on emergency response, including self-rescue and assisted rescue procedures related to static line use Language, literacy and cultural barriers not properly addressed in training delivery and assessment Lack of refresher training, resulting in skill fade and poor retention of critical safety information 		<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
5. Inspection, Maintenance and Recertification Regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static line system not inspected at the frequency required by Australian Standards, manufacturer instructions or organisational procedure Inspections carried out by personnel lacking specific competence or authorisation for static line system inspection Inspection findings not recorded, tracked or actioned, leading to continued use of defective systems Failure to take systems out of service when defects, damage or corrosion are identified No process for reassessment and recertification after structural works, roof replacements or modifications in proximity to the static line Environmental exposure (UV, corrosion, pollution, marine) 	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Low

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	<p>environments) degrading system components without timely detection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear and damage from misuse, unapproved equipment or overloading not identified by routine checks • Loss of traceability for components and systems where labels, tags or serial numbers have deteriorated or been removed • Inadequate budgeting and planning for periodic recertification, resulting in overdue inspections • System documentation (manuals, drawings, certificates) not updated to reflect modifications, replacements or decommissioning 		<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	
6. Access Control, Signage and System Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised or untrained persons gaining access to roofs or areas where static line systems are installed • Insufficient signage indicating the presence, rating, limitations and inspection status of static line systems • Confusing or inconsistent labelling causing misuse of adjacent systems (e.g. mixing static line and other systems incorrectly) • Roof access points (ladders, hatches, doors) not controlled, leading to uncontrolled work at height • Lack of clear information on safe access routes to and from the static line, exposing workers to unprotected edges or fragile surfaces • Inadequate communication to contractors about existing static line systems, their status and any restrictions on use • No documented process for isolating or locking out static line systems that are out of service or pending repair 	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> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple systems from different eras installed without rationalisation, creating confusion and increased risk of error System documentation not available at point of use, resulting in work being carried out without reference to limitations or procedures Poor integration of static line information into site induction, permits and work authorisation processes 		[REDACTED]	
7. Planning, Work Authorisation and Use of Hierarchy of Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Static line systems used as the default solution without considering elimination or lower-risk methods of working Work at height commenced without formal planning, risk assessment or permit-to-work process Static line systems relied upon for tasks outside their design scope (e.g. heavy material handling, suspended loads, confined space access) Inadequate coordination between multiple contractors or trades using the same static line or roof simultaneously Failure to consider weather conditions, access frequency and duration when deciding whether to use static line systems No requirement for a competent supervisor or planner to review proposed work methods involving static lines Conflicting work activities (e.g. crane lifts, roof replacement, electrical work) occurring adjacent to static line usage Insufficient planning for rescue and emergency response associated with static line use for specific tasks Permits and work authorisations not linked to current inspection status of the static line system 	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumption that contractors manage their own static line risks without adequate coordination between duty holders • Contractor safe work method statements (SWMS) not specifically addressing static line system management, limitations and rescue • Inconsistent induction of contractors regarding site-specific static line systems and access controls • Subcontractors engaged by principal contractors not being vetted or trained for static line use • No mechanism to ensure contractor equipment (PPE, lanyards, shuttles) is compatible with installed static line systems • Contractors modifying or interfering with static line systems (e.g. adding fixings, altering spans) without authorisation • Poor communication of changes in system status (e.g. out of service, under repair) to all contractors • Lack of performance monitoring and review of contractors' adherence to static line related procedures • Multiple contractors accessing same static line simultaneously without coordination of user limits and task interactions 		<p>[REDACTED]</p>	
10. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static line management system not periodically reviewed for effectiveness and ongoing suitability • Changes in legislation, standards or industry good practice not incorporated into organisational procedures • Data from inspections, incidents, audits and worker feedback not systematically analysed for trends 	Medium	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Low

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear key performance indicators (KPIs) or metrics related to static line safety performance Lessons learned from other sites or external incidents not shared across the organisation Complacency developing over time, particularly where no major incidents have occurred Failure to consult workers when reviewing static line systems and related procedures Inadequate management review and resourcing for improvements identified through audits and risk assessments Technological advances in fall protection and access methods not considered for potential risk reduction Documentation becoming outdated or inconsistent across different versions and locations 		<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	

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 IF 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.