

Workshop Safety

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			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> 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.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.	<b>Administrative</b> Change	
								<b>PPE</b>	

  

Risk Rating & Required Action:	
<b>4A</b>	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.
<b>3H</b>	Review and approve additional controls before task starts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
<b>2M</b>	Ensure all nominated controls are in place and effective. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
<b>1L</b>	Proceed, following standard operating procedures. Monitor and keep records.

  

Consequence Scale:			
Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
<b>Catastrophic</b>	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
<b>Major</b>	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
<b>Moderate</b>	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
<b>Minor</b>	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
<b>Insignificant</b>	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, Duties and Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of clear allocation of WHS duties and due diligence responsibilities under WHS Act 2011 for officers and PCBUs</li> <li>Inadequate consultation mechanisms with workers and health and safety representatives (HSRs) on workshop risks and changes</li> <li>Absence of a documented WHS policy and objectives specific to workshop operations</li> <li>Failure to integrate WHS governance into business planning, budgeting and decision-making for workshop activities</li> <li>Poor reporting culture leading to under-reporting of hazards, near misses and incidents in the workshop</li> <li>Inadequate review of WHS performance indicators relevant to workshop safety at management level</li> <li>Insufficient resourcing (time, budget, competent people) for identifying and monitoring workshop safety systems</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and document a WHS governance framework that clearly defines PCBUs, officers and worker obligations in line with the WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulation, with specific reference to workshop activities</li> <li>Develop and endorse a WHS policy that explicitly references workshop safety expectations, signed by senior management and communicated to all workers and contractors</li> <li>Document and implement a consultation procedure that outlines how workers, HSRs and contractors in the workshop are involved in identifying hazards, developing controls and reviewing changes to plant, layout and procedures</li> <li>Form a workplace health and safety committee or equivalent forum that includes workshop representatives to review incident trends, risk assessments and improvement actions on a regular schedule</li> <li>Set measurable WHS objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) for workshop safety (e.g. closure time for corrective actions, hazard reports submitted, completion of training) and review these at management meetings</li> <li>Allocate sufficient budget and staffing to maintain safe workshop infrastructure, plant inspection regimes, training programs and specialist WHS advice as required</li> <li>Establish a transparent and non-punitive incident and hazard reporting system (e.g. online or app-based) and promote its use through inductions, toolbox talks and ongoing communication</li> <li>Include WHS governance and compliance status for the workshop as a standing agenda item at senior management meetings, with documented minutes and action tracking</li> <li>Undertake periodic legal compliance audits against the WHS Act 2011, WHS Regulation and applicable Codes of Practice relevant to workshops, with findings recorded and acted upon</li> </ul>	Medium
2. Workshop WHS Management System and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of a structured WHS management system covering workshop activities (policies, procedures, standards and records)</li> <li>Outdated or inconsistent procedures for high-risk workshop activities (e.g. plant use, hot work, confined spaces, hazardous chemicals)</li> <li>Poor document control leading to multiple versions of critical procedures and confusion amongst workers</li> <li>Inadequate risk assessment processes for new workshop tasks, equipment and substances</li> <li>Lack of integration between WHS documentation and other business</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a formal WHS management system (e.g. aligned with ISO 45001 principles) that clearly covers all workshop-related operations, including policies, procedures, risk registers and forms</li> <li>Develop and maintain documented procedures and safe work instructions for key workshop risk areas such as machine operation, isolation and lock-out, hot work, working at height, manual tasks, hazardous chemicals and traffic management</li> <li>Introduce a document control procedure that assigns ownership, revision control, approval requirements and controlled distribution for all WHS documents related to the workshop</li> <li>Maintain a workshop-specific risk register that captures identified hazards, assessed risk levels, existing controls, further actions and responsible persons, and review it on a scheduled basis</li> <li>Embed WHS requirements into business processes such as procurement, contractor management, equipment commissioning and decommissioning, ensuring workshop considerations are addressed at each stage</li> <li>Use a centralised electronic WHS management platform (or structured shared drive) to store current versions of workshop procedures, forms, inspection templates and permits with access permissions and backup protocols</li> </ul>	Medium

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	<p>systems (e.g. maintenance, procurement, HR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient record-keeping to demonstrate compliance (e.g. training records, inspection forms, permits, test and tag logs)</li> <li>• No systematic review cycle for WHS documents relevant to workshop operations</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all workshop training, inductions, competency assessments, inspections, audits and permit approvals are recorded, retained and readily retrievable for regulatory and internal review</li> <li>• Apply a scheduled review cycle (e.g. every 1–2 years or following incidents/changes) for all critical workshop WHS documents, with evidence of review, consultation and re-approval</li> <li>• Conduct internal WHS system audits focusing on workshop documentation effectiveness and close out identified non-conformances through a corrective action process</li> </ul>	
3. Leadership, Supervision and Safety Culture in the Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate frontline supervision leading to unsafe work practices and non-compliance with procedures</li> <li>• Supervisors lacking WHS knowledge and skills to manage workshop risks and enforce standards</li> <li>• Production or time pressures being prioritised over safe systems of work</li> <li>• Tolerance of unsafe behaviours or shortcuts becoming normalised in the workshop culture</li> <li>• Poor communication of safety expectations, change in warnings from incidents</li> <li>• Lack of recognition or reinforcement for safe behaviours in workshop teams</li> <li>• Ineffective management of fatigue stress and psychosocial risks for workshop workers</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and document WHS roles, responsibilities and authorities for workshop supervisors and team leaders, linking these to position descriptions and performance reviews</li> <li>• Provide targeted WHS leadership and due diligence training for managers and supervisors responsible for workshop operations, including legal duties, risk management and incident response</li> <li>• Ensure adequate supervisory coverage for all shifts and high-risk workshop activities, considering complexity, worker experience and contractor presence</li> <li>• Embed safety performance objectives into supervisor KPI frameworks, including leading indicators such as inspections completed, toolbox talks conducted and corrective actions closed</li> <li>• Implement regular toolbox meetings, pre-shift briefings and debriefs within the workshop to communicate hazards, changes, lessons learned from incidents and improvement initiatives</li> <li>• Establish a behavioural-based safety observation program where supervisors and peers routinely observe work practices, provide constructive feedback and record trends for improvement</li> <li>• Promote a just and fair culture policy that discourages blame and encourages open reporting of mistakes and near misses while still addressing wilful or reckless breaches</li> <li>• Develop procedures for managing fatigue, workload and psychosocial risks for workshop workers, including rostering principles, access to support services and escalation pathways for concerns</li> <li>• Introduce recognition programs or informal acknowledgement for teams and individuals demonstrating strong safety leadership and participation in WHS initiatives within the workshop</li> </ul>	Medium
4. Competency, Training and Induction for Workshop Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers and contractors performing workshop tasks without verified competency or appropriate licences</li> <li>• Inadequate induction for new workers, contractors and visitors on workshop-specific hazards and rules</li> <li>• Training programs that are ad hoc, not based on risk, or not refreshed at appropriate intervals</li> <li>• Inconsistent competency assessment methods for high-risk plant (e.g. forklifts, hoists, presses, welding equipment)</li> </ul>	High	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Medium

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of emergency procedures, isolation systems and permit requirements among workshop personnel</li> <li>Failure to identify and address language, literacy and numeracy barriers in training materials</li> <li>Lack of training for workers in recognising early warning signs of plant defects, hazardous substance issues and unsafe conditions</li> </ul>		[REDACTED]	
5. Plant, Equipment and Workshop Layout Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate design, selection and procurement of plant and equipment with poor inherent safety features</li> <li>Lack of engineering controls such as guarding, interlocks and emergency stops on workshop machinery</li> <li>Poor workshop layout leading to conflicts between pedestrians, vehicles and fixed plant</li> <li>Uncontrolled changes to plant, equipment or layout (no management of change process)</li> <li>Inadequate systems for isolation, lock-out/tag-out and verification of isolation during maintenance and repair</li> <li>Failure to identify and manage risks from hired or contractor-supplied equipment brought into the workshop</li> <li>Insufficient ventilation, lighting and noise control for the types of work undertaken in the workshop</li> </ul>	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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			[REDACTED]	
6. Maintenance, Inspection and Asset Management of Workshop Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of a planned preventive maintenance program for critical workshop plant and safety systems</li> <li>Reliance on reactive maintenance leading to unexpected breakdowns and higher risk of failure during use</li> <li>Incomplete or inaccurate maintenance records, hindering verification of compliance and reliability</li> <li>Failure to remove defective equipment from service or appropriately tag it as out of use</li> <li>Inadequate inspection regimes for lifting equipment, pressure vessels, electrical tools and other regulated plant</li> <li>Poor coordination between production and maintenance leading to work being carried out on unsafe or live equipment</li> <li>Use of unqualified persons to repair or modify plant and safety systems</li> </ul>	High	[REDACTED]	Low
7. Hazardous Chemicals, Substances and WHS Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of a complete and current hazardous chemicals register for substances used or stored in the workshop</li> <li>Safety Data Sheets (SDS) not readily available or out of date</li> <li>Inadequate risk assessments for hazardous chemicals and generated</li> </ul>	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	<p>substances (e.g. welding fumes, solvents, paints, degreasers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper storage, labelling and segregation of incompatible chemicals</li> <li>• Insufficient systems for controlling exposure to fumes, vapours, dusts and mists during routine workshop activities</li> <li>• Failure to implement safe systems for decanting, mixing and disposing of hazardous chemicals</li> <li>• Inadequate training of workers in chemical hazards, PPE requirements and emergency response (spills, exposures, fires)</li> </ul>		[REDACTED]	
8. Contractor and Visitor Management in the Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors undertaking high-risk activities in the workshop without alignment to site VMS systems</li> <li>• Inadequate pre-qualification of contractors in relation to VMS capabilities and compliance history</li> <li>• Visitors entering workshop areas without appropriate supervision, induction or PPE</li> <li>• Poor coordination between contractors' work and routine workshop activities, leading to interface risks</li> <li>• Lack of clarity about who is controlling the work area and emergency arrangements when multiple PCBUs are present</li> <li>• Insufficient monitoring of contractor performance and adherence to safe work methods</li> <li>• Inadequate communication of workshop hazards, restricted areas and</li> </ul>	High	[REDACTED]	Medium

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	exclusion zones to contractors and visitors		[REDACTED]	
9. Emergency Preparedness, Response and Incident Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of comprehensive emergency planning specific to workshop hazards such as fires, chemical spills, plant entrapment and medical emergencies</li> <li>Inadequate emergency equipment (e.g. fire extinguishers, first aid kits, spill kits, eye wash stations) or poor maintenance of this equipment</li> <li>Unclear or untested evacuation procedures for workshop including accounting for all persons</li> <li>Insufficient number of trained first aiders, fire warden and responders in workshop shifts</li> <li>Poor incident notification, investigation and corrective action systems for workshop events</li> <li>Failure to learn from incidents and near misses, resulting in repeated events</li> <li>Emergency exits, access routes and assembly areas compromised by storage, vehicles or poor layout</li> </ul>	High	[REDACTED]	Low
10. Housekeeping, Traffic Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor housekeeping leading to slips, trips, falls and obstructed emergency egress in workshop areas</li> </ul>	Medium	[REDACTED]	Low

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and General Workshop Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncontrolled interaction between vehicles (e.g. forklifts, trucks) and pedestrians in and around the workshop</li> <li>• Inadequate management of waste, offcuts and by-products, creating fire, trip and contamination risks</li> <li>• Insufficient systems for managing noise, heat and other environmental conditions in the workshop</li> <li>• Improper storage of tools, components and materials resulting in falling object and ergonomic hazards</li> <li>• Failure to maintain clear line-of-sight and communication in congested or noisy workshop areas</li> </ul>		<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 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.