# Abrading Surfaces To Facilitate Bonding With Adhesives in Flooring and Tiling | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

**TASK OR ACTIVITY: Abrading Surfaces To Facilitate Bonding With Adhesives in Flooring and Tiling**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Business Name: | | ABN: | SWMS# |
| Business Address: | | | |
| Contact Person: | Phone: | Email: | |

## THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT 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 safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Full Name: | | |
| Signature: | Title: | Date: |

Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring and compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Full Name: | Title: | Phone: |

| ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED | NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS |
|---|---|
| Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, then to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard. | |
| If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity. | |
| Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel. | |
| The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident. | |

| CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS | |
|---|---|
| Client: | SCOPE OF WORKS |
| Project Name: | |
| Project Address: | |
| Project Manager: | |
| Contact Phone: | |
| Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager: | |

| ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT | |
|---|---|
| ☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters | ☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping |
| ☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower | ☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines |
| ☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing | ☐ is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services |
| ☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure | ☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere |
| ☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos | ☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete |
| ☐ involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse | ☐ is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor |
| ☐ is carried out in or near a confined space | ☐ is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant |
| ☐ is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than or tunnel involving use of explosives | ☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature. |
| ☐ is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning. | ☐ involves diving work. |

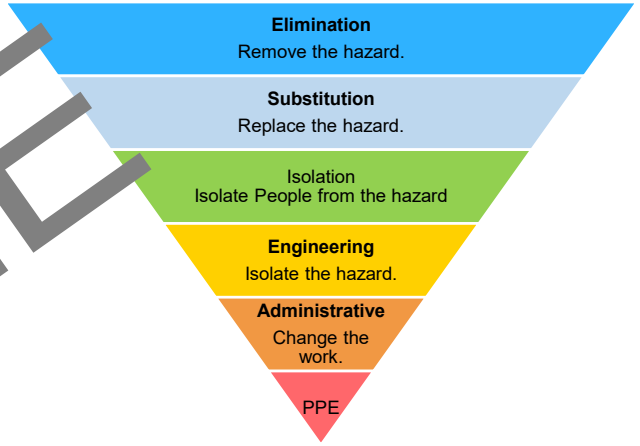
| ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY |
|---|
| |

## 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 PROCEE |
| POSSIBLE | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 3H HIGH | Review befo work starts. |
| UNLIKELY | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 2M MODERATE | Ensure control measures in place. |
| RARE | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | 1L LOW | nitor and k records |

**Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:** Elimination methods are the most effective and preferre en co lli a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the ost ef ve, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Eq ment) he least effective method.

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS




## PERS NAL P TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

**Select the appropriate PPE bov uitable or the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).**

| FOOT PROTECTION | HAND PROTECTION | HEAD PROTECTION | HEARING TECTION | EY CTION | RESPIRATORY PROTECTION | FACE PROTECTION | HIGH-VIS CLOTHING | PROTECTIVE CLOTHING | FALL PROTECTION | SUN PROTECTION | HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Other PPE Required:

| Permit or Licenses Requirements | Mandatory Qualifications and Training |
|---|---|
| | |

| 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. Preparation | Tripping over materials, Exposure to dust | 2M, 3H | - Ensure the work area is well-organised to minimise materials being left in walkways.<br>- Clearly mark areas with high foot traffic using signs or barriers to prevent tripping.<br>- Keep floors clear of unnecessary tools and equipment when not in use.<br>- Secure any loose cables or cords away from walkways to prevent trips and falls.<br>- Provide adequate lighting in the workspace to make potential hazards visible.<br>- Use dust extraction systems where possible to reduce airborne particles.<br>- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as dust masks or respirators, to protect against inhaling dust.<br>- Regularly clean dust using vacuum systems rather than dry sweeping to prevent it becoming airborne.<br>- Define and communicate a clear workflow plan to prevent chaos and misplacement of materials.<br>- Brief staff on the specific risks related to tripping and exposure to dust before commencing work.<br>- Schedule regular housekeeping checks to ensure pathways remain clear throughout the shift.<br>- Instruct workers to report any spills or trip hazards immediately for prompt action.<br>- Position warning signage around areas prone to dust accumulation to remind workers of precautions.<br>- Train workers on proper manual handling techniques to minimise risk of accidents while moving materials. | 1L, 2M |
| 2. Surface Inspection | Inhalation of dust, Skin irritation from surface material | 3H, 2M | - Conduct a thorough risk assessment before commencing work to identify potential surface materials that may pose skin irritation or respiratory risks.<br>- Implement a dust suppression system, such as using water sprays or wetting agents, to minimise airborne dust generated during the abrasion process.<br>- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks with particulate filters, safety goggles, and gloves to protect against inhalation of dust and skin contact.<br>- Ensure proper ventilation in the work area to reduce the concentration of airborne dust particles, through natural airflow or mechanical means like exhaust fans.<br>- Use vacuum extraction tools equipped with HEPA filters when abrading surfaces to capture dust at the source.<br>- Train all workers on the potential hazards related to dust exposure and safe handling procedures for surfaces being worked on.<br>- Set up exclusion zones to prevent unauthorised entry by other personnel into areas where surface abrasion is taking place. | 2M, 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 |
| | | | - Regularly inspect and maintain PPE, ensuring it is suitable for the task, and replace any damaged or ineffective equipment immediately.<br>- Schedule regular breaks away from dusty environments to reduce cumulative exposure times for workers.<br>- Promptly clean up accumulated dust from the worksite using methods that prevent its spread, such as damp wiping or HEPA-filtered vacuuming.<br>- Document and report any incidents of dust exposure or skin irritation to address potential gaps in control measures.<br>- Educate workers on recognising early signs of dust-related health issues and provide access to occupational health services for monitoring and assistance. | |
| 3. Abrading Process | Hand injuries, Eye injuries, Noise pollution, Vibration | 3H, 3H, 2M, 2M | - Conduct a pre-start safety briefing to ensure all workers understand the correct procedures and hazards involved in the abrading process.<br>- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as cut-resistant gloves, to minimise the risk of hand injuries.<br>- Use safety goggles or full-face shields to protect eyes from dust and debris during the abrading process.<br>- Implement localised dust extraction systems to reduce airborne particles and enhance visibility.<br>- Ensure that hearing protection is worn at all times to guard against noise pollution from power tools or equipment.<br>- Provide regular breaks and rotate tasks among workers to mitigate the effects of prolonged exposure to tool vibrations.<br>- Confirm that all abrading tools and equipment are properly maintained and regularly inspected for safety compliance.<br>- Securely fasten or clamp materials being abraded to eliminate movement that could lead to uncontrolled material handling or potential injury.<br>- Establish clear exclusion zones to keep non-essential personnel away from the work area, minimising distraction and risk.<br>- Train employees in ergonomically sound techniques to prevent long-term musculoskeletal issues from improper posture during the task.<br>- Use padded gloves or anti-vibration mats where possible to reduce the impact of vibration-induced stress on workers' hands and arms.<br>- Display clear signage indicating potential hazards and required PPE in the immediate work area to promote awareness and compliance. | 2M, 2M, 1L, 1L |
| 4. Cleaning Abraded Surface | Slippery floor, Chemical exposure from cleaning solutions | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 5. Mixing Adhesive | Skin irritation from adhesive, Inhalation of fumes | 2M, 3H | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 6. Applying Adhesive | Exposure to toxic fumes, Skin irritation | 3H, 2M | [redacted] | 2M, 1L |
| 7. Bonding Surface Material | Risk of improper application/incomplete bonding, Heat/cold stress | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 8. Pressurisation | Equipment malfunctions, Accidents release of pressure | 3H, 3H | [redacted] | 2M, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 9. Final Inspection | Slips and trips, Incorrect bonded surfaces | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 1L |
| 10. Clean Up Work Area | Exposure to cleaning chemicals, Slippery floor from cleaning | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 11. Disposal of Waste Materials | Chemical exposure, Cuts and punctures from waste | 2[illegible], 3H | [redacted] | 1L, 2M |
| 12. Equipment Check | Accidents due to malfunctioning equipment, Electrical hazards | 3H, 3H | [redacted] | 2M, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 13. Packaging and Labelling | Incorrect labelling causing mishandling, Lifting heavy items | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 14. Transportation of Bonded Material | Trips and falls while [illegible] the material, Damage to the bonded material | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 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 |
| | | | [redacted] | |
| 15. Document Completion | Data entry errors, Missing documentation | 2M, 2M | [redacted] | 1L, 1L |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

## 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 2017
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

## SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

| Worker Name | Signature | Date |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

**The SWMS must be reviewed regularly** to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and sub-contractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

**The SWMS must be monitored regularly** for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

| REVIEW NUMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NAME | | | | | | | |
| INITIALS | | | | | | | |
| DATE | | | | | | | |

## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

| ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS | COMPLETED | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|
| The company details have been entered, including the project name and address. | ☒ | |
| All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS. | ☒ | |
| Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS. | ☐ | |
| Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS. | ☒ | |
| Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task. | ☒ | |
| Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed. | ☒ | |
| Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step. | ☒ | |
| Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS. | ☒ | |
| SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column completed. | ☒ | |
| Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selection. | ☒ | |
| Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures. | ☒ | |
| Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc. | ☒ | |
| SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used. | ☒ | |
| Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed are noted on the SWMS. | ☒ | |
| Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training or skills required to perform the work. | ☒ | |
| Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS. | ☒ | |
| Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards. | ☒ | |
| Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS. | ☒ | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **REVIEWED BY** | | **DATE REVIEWED** | |
| **SIGNATURE** | | **DATE COMPLETED** | |