

Abrasive Blasting | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Abrasive Blasting

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

THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF 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 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 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.

| |
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| <p>NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS</p> |
|--|

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

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

ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

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|--|
| |
|--|

| RISK MATRIX | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| LIKELIHOOD | INSIGNIFICANT | MINOR | MODERATE | MAJOR | CATASTROPHIC | SCORE | ACTION |
| ALMOST CERTAIN | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 4A ACUTE | DO NOT PROCEED |
| LIKELY | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 3H HIGH | Review before work starts. |
| POSSIBLE | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 4 ACUTE | 2M MODERATE | Ensure control measures in place. |
| UNLIKELY | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 4 ACUTE | 1L LOW | Monitor and keep records |
| RARE | 1 LOW | 1 LOW | 2 MODERATE | 3 HIGH | 3 HIGH | | |

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls: Elimination methods are the most effective and preferred when controlling a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the third most effective, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is the least effective method.

| PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable). | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FOOT PROTECTION | HAND PROTECTION | HEAD PROTECTION | HEARING PROTECTION | EYE PROTECTION | RESPIRATORY PROTECTION | FACE PROTECTION | HIGH-VIS CLOTHING | PROTECTIVE CLOTHING | FALL PROTECTION | SUN PROTECTION | HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | Slips, trips, and falls, Manual handling injuries | 2M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain a clean and organised work environment: Keep the abrasive blasting area free from clutter, debris, and any unnecessary materials to minimise the risk of slips, trips, and falls. - Proper housekeeping: Regularly clean and inspect walkways and surfaces for potential hazards, such as spills or uneven ground, and address them promptly. - Implement appropriate signage: Use warning signs and barriers to identify potential hazards in the preparation area and alert workers about them. - Provide suitable footwear: Require all employees engaging in abrasive blasting tasks to wear slip-resistant and steel-toed footwear to minimise the risk of slips and manual handling injuries. - Enhance workplace lighting: Improve visibility in work areas with adequate illumination to help reduce the risk of accidents caused by poor visibility. - Training and induction: Ensure that all workers are adequately trained in safe manual handling techniques, proper use of equipment, and awareness of potential hazards associated with abrasive blasting activities. - Use mechanical aids: Provide workers with tools and equipment, such as trolleys, hoists, or conveyor systems, to assist with heavy lifting and reduce the likelihood of manual handling injuries. - Establish clear procedures: Develop standard operating procedures outlining the correct methods for preparing and setting up equipment for abrasive blasting. - Encourage open communication: Encourage workers to report any hazards or concerns they encounter during preparation activities to their supervisors and promote a culture of safety within the workplace. - Conduct regular risk assessments: Periodically review and assess the hazards associated with the preparation phase of abrasive blasting activities, and update control measures as necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and well-being of workers in the workplace. | 1L |
| 2. Equipment Set-up | Electrical hazards, Noise exposure | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all electrical equipment, including the abrasive blasting machine and any additional power tools, are inspected for damage or wear before use, and are properly grounded. - Only use extension cords rated for outdoor use and heavy-duty applications, and verify they have a built-in ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) for added protection. - Keep cables, cords, and hoses neatly organised and secured to prevent potential trip hazards in the work area. - Maintain at least a 3-meter clearance from any water source when using electrical equipment, and avoid working in wet conditions to reduce the risk of electrocution. - Use appropriate hearing protection, such as earmuffs or earplugs, to safeguard against noise exposure during the abrasive blasting process. - Schedule noisy tasks at times of day when fewer workers are present and exposed to the elevated noise levels. | 2M |

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|-----------------------|--|--------------|---|---------------|
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage affected workers to periodically take breaks away from the noisy work area to allow the ears some rest and recovery. - Implement a hearing conservation programme that includes regular hearing tests and training on the risks associated with noise exposure. - Use equipment with reduced noise emission levels where possible. If necessary, consider retrofitting equipment with noise-reduction features or replace older, noisier models with newer ones. - Erect temporary barriers, screens, or acoustic curtains around the work area to help absorb noise and prevent sound waves from travelling beyond the immediate vicinity. - Consult a specialist to determine if workplace acoustics can be improved through architectural planning or materials, which may result in reducing overall noise exposure. - Ensure all employees who are involved in abrasive blasting have completed proper training and are well-versed in safe set-up procedures for the specific equipment being used. - Develop an emergency response plan to address the possibility of an electrical fire or other incidents related to equipment malfunction or improper use, and train all staff accordingly. | |
| 3. Abrasive Selection | Inhalation of dust, Eye injury from abrasive particles | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide appropriate ventilation in the work area to prevent the accumulation of dust and ensure workers are protected from inhaling harmful particles. - Implement air monitoring to measure concentrations of any hazardous substances in the air and confirm that the control measures are effective. - Require workers to use respiratory protective equipment (RPE), such as dust masks or respirators specifically designed for abrasive blasting tasks. - Ensure that workers receive proper training on how to correctly wear, inspect, clean, maintain, and store RPE. - Implement a regular maintenance schedule for dust collection systems to ensure their continued effectiveness and to reduce the risk of inhaling hazardous dusts. - Choose low-dust abrasives where possible to minimise airborne dust generation. - Use wet blasting techniques when feasible to help suppress dust generation and make cleanup easier. - Utilise protective screens or barriers where possible to contain flying particles and reduce the risk of injuries to workers and others present in the work area. - Ensure that workers are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety goggles, face-shields, gloves, and protective clothing to prevent contact with abrasive particles. - Conduct regular toolbox talks or safety briefings for workers to reinforce the importance of wearing their PPE and following safe work procedures. - Establish and enforce exclusion zones around the abrasive blasting operation to limit access and minimise potential exposure to hazards for other workers who might be nearby. - Implement good housekeeping practices and require regular cleaning of the work area, removing all build-up of dust and debris to prevent slips, trips, and falls. | 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] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 5. PPE Inspection and Use | Incorrect PPE, Damaged PPE | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |

SAMPLE

| 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. Operation of Blast Process | Hearing damage, Repetitive motion injuries | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |

SAMPLE

| 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] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 7. Communication & Signals | Miscommunication, inadequate hand signals | 1L | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |

SAMPLE

| 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. Work Breaks and Rotation | Fatigue, Loss of concentration | 2H | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 9. Equipment Maintenance | Faulty equipment, Leaks or blockages | 3H | [REDACTED] | 2M |

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/lit/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.

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 must 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 represent 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. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column completed. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selected. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed are noted on the SWMS. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training or skills required to perform the work. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| REVIEWED BY | | DATE REVIEWED |
| SIGNATURE | | DATE COMPLETED |