

Driving Commercial Vehicles | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Driving Commercial Vehicles

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.

<p>NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS</p>
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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		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before 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	Monitor and keep records

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS	
Elimination Remove the hazard.	
Substitution Replace the hazard.	
Isolation Isolate People from the hazard	
Engineering Isolate the hazard.	
Administrative Change the work.	
PPE	

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	Failure to complete pre-inspection, Improper set up of vehicle	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all drivers are trained and competent in conducting vehicle pre-inspections. - Use a detailed checklist for pre-inspection to ensure critical components are checked before commencing driving. - Schedule regular maintenance checks by qualified personnel to prevent equipment failure. - Keep a record of all vehicle inspections to track issues and repairs. - Verify that all safety and emergency equipment is present and operational, such as fire extinguishers and first-aid kits. - Confirm the driver's current licence and any required endorsements are valid before vehicle operation. - Ensure proper tyre pressure and tread depth for safe handling and braking. - Verify that all lights and indicators, including brake lights, are functioning correctly. - Check fluid levels, including oil, coolant, and brake fluid, to prevent breakdowns. - Conduct a visual inspection of the vehicle's exterior for any visible damage or potential hazards. - Secure load restraints to prevent cargo shift during transit. - Adjust mirrors and seating position for optimal driver visibility and comfort. - Confirm that GPS devices or route maps are prepared prior to departure, minimising distractions while driving. - Implement a system for reporting and correcting identified hazards during the inspection process. 	1L
2. Getting into Commercial Vehicles	Slips, trips, and falls, Strain or overexertion injuries	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the use of non-slip footwear to reduce the risk of slips and trips when entering the vehicle. - Install grab handles on both sides of the vehicle's entry points to provide additional support. - Educate drivers on proper techniques for mounting and dismounting vehicles, focusing on maintaining three points of contact at all times. - Implement regular maintenance and cleaning schedules for entry steps to prevent build-up of mud, oil, or other slippery substances. - Adjust the height of entry points through the use of running boards or steps where necessary to match individual ergonomic needs and minimise strain. - Provide training on the safe handling of personal items while getting into vehicles to avoid awkward postures or overloading. - Require the inspection and reporting of any damage or wear to vehicle steps and handholds during pre-start checks. - Encourage taking frequent breaks and performing stretching exercises to maintain physical fitness and flexibility. 	1L

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use supportive mats or cushioning inside the vehicle cab to provide comfort and reduce impact stress during entry. - Position frequently used items within easy reach in the vehicle cabin to prevent twisting or reaching movements that may cause strain. 	
3. Vehicle Start Up	Engine Failure, Accidental collisions	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a pre-start vehicle inspection to identify any potential issues or defects before starting the engine. - Check and ensure all fluids including oil, coolant, brake fluid, and fuel, are at appropriate levels to prevent engine failure during start-up. - Verify that all safety features, such as seat belts, airbags, and brakes, are in proper working condition to maximise vehicle safety. - Ensure that mirrors and seat adjustments are set correctly for optimal visibility and control during operation. - Remove any obstacles around the vehicle that could impede movement or cause accidental collisions when starting and manoeuvring. - Engage the parking brake fully and set the transmission to Park (or Neutral for manual vehicles) before turning the ignition key or pressing the start button. - Confirm that front and rear lights, indicators, and warning signals are functioning correctly to communicate effectively with other road users. - Utilise additional safety measures such as cones or barriers when operating a vehicle in high-traffic areas or zones with limited visibility. - Train drivers on safe start-up procedures and hazard identification specific to the type of commercial vehicle they will be operating. - Establish and follow a regular maintenance schedule in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations to reduce the risk of engine failure and mechanical issues. - Implement radio communication protocols for use in environments where visual cues alone might not suffice to avoid collisions or misunderstandings. 	2M
4. Loading/Unloading Equipment	Manual handling injuries, Slips, trips, falls	2M	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	1L

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			[REDACTED]	
5. Regular Driving	Accidents due to speed, Hit	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
6. Emergency Stop Procedure	Rear-end collision, Brake failure	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

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			[REDACTED]	
7. Vehicle Maintenance	Injury from incorrect use of tools, Fires from flammable substances	2M	[REDACTED]	1L

SAMPLE

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			[REDACTED]	
8. Parking	Collision with fixed object, Movement of stationary vehicles	2M	[REDACTED]	1L
9. Refuelling	Chemical spills, fire risks	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]	
11. Long Distance Trips	Fatigue, Dietary problems	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
12. Vehicle Offloading on Site	Dangerous good leaks, Crushing injuries	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
13. Dealing with Breakdowns	Facing traffic, Struck by moving vehicles	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
14. Securing Load	Falls from height, Overbalanced loads	4A	[REDACTED]	3H
15. Using GPS Navigation	Distracted driving, GPS Malfunction	2M	[REDACTED]	1L

SAMPLE

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
16. Unsecure Loads	Shift of load causing imbalance, Falling objects		[REDACTED]	3H
17. Handling Cash and Valuables	Robbery, Theft	2M	[REDACTED]	1L

SAMPLE

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
19. Dealing with the Public	Verbal or physical assault	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
20. Dealing with Animals on the Road	Accident due to sudden stop or swerving	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			<div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 95%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 90%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 85%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 95%;"></div>	

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

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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/factsheets-and-resources/codes-of-practice</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Model Codes of Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<p>Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 checked="" 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