

**Excavator Attachments | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)**

**TASK OR ACTIVITY: Excavator Attachments**

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:
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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:
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**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 2m 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 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:											
<b>Permit or Licenses Requirements</b>						<b>Mandatory Qualifications and Training</b>					

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	Unstable ground, Struck by moving excavator	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a thorough site inspection to identify and assess any unstable ground conditions before commencing work with the excavator attachments.</li> <li>- Ensure that all workers are trained and competent in the safe operation of excavator attachments, as well as recognizing potential hazards.</li> <li>- Set up appropriate signage, barriers, and exclusion zones around the work area to prevent unauthorised access and protect workers from moving machinery.</li> <li>- Plan the task ahead and communicate the necessary safety controls, ensuring all workers understand their roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>- Promptly maintain the excavator and its attachments according to the manufacturer's guidelines, performing pre-use inspections, and addressing any issues promptly.</li> <li>- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers such as hard hats, high visibility vests, gloves, and safety boots.</li> <li>- Establish clear communication lines between excavator operators and on-ground workers using devices such as two-way radios, hand signals, or warning sirens.</li> <li>- Ensure that the excavator is operated only by certified and experienced individuals who follow industry best practices during attachment installation and use.</li> <li>- Implement effective traffic management plans for vehicles and pedestrians on site, ensuring everyone adheres to established routes and maintains a safe distance from excavator operations.</li> <li>- In case of unstable ground conditions, employ suitable ground protection measures such as installing temporary support structures or using soil compaction techniques.</li> <li>- Regularly monitor weather conditions and environmental factors throughout the project, and halt work if conditions become too hazardous, e.g., severe rainfall, high winds, or extreme temperatures.</li> <li>- Encourage a culture of safety amongst all workers, promoting open communication channels for reporting hazards or incidents, and facilitating regular toolbox talks on relevant topics to continually improve hazard awareness and adherence to control measures.</li> </ul>	2M
2. Site inspection	Uneven terrain, Falling objects	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing a thorough site inspection prior to commencing work to identify uneven terrain and potential falling objects, and taking note of any areas that require extra caution.</li> <li>- Ensuring that all workers are properly trained in recognizing and managing risks associated with uneven terrain and falling objects.</li> <li>- Enforcing the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as steel-toed boots, hard hats, and high visibility vests for all personnel working in the vicinity of the excavator.</li> <li>- Establishing designated walkways and clearly marking them with signage to minimise pedestrian exposure to hazards related to uneven terrain and falling objects.</li> </ul>	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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regularly maintaining and inspecting the excavator attachments to make sure they are in good condition, and replacing any damaged or worn parts as needed.</li> <li>- Utilising barriers or exclusion zones around the work area to prevent unauthorised access and reducing the risk of injury from falling objects.</li> <li>- Implementing a rigorous training program for excavator operators to ensure they are proficient in the proper operation and handling of the equipment, including attachment changes and securing loads.</li> <li>- Developing an effective communication system between the excavator operator and ground personnel, through two-way radios, hand signals, or other means for clear communication in case of emergency situations.</li> <li>- Enforcing strict adherence to manufacturer guidelines and recommendations for excavator attachment usage, including maximum load capacities and operating speed limits.</li> <li>- Adopting a systematic approach to safely load and unload materials, ensuring that loads are secure and well-balanced to reduce the risk of a falling object.</li> <li>- Establishing an incident reporting and investigation system to promptly address any incidents involving unexplained or falling objects, and implementing corrective actions to prevent reoccurrence.</li> <li>- Regularly reviewing and updating the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) to incorporate new findings and changes to the work environment, ensuring continuous improvement in workplace safety practices.</li> </ul>	
3. Excavator setup	Incorrect attachment method, Pinch points	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper training of excavator operators: Ensure that all operators have completed required training on the specific attachment method and excavator model.</li> <li>- Pre-use inspection of equipment: Perform a thorough visual inspection of the attachment and connection points to identify any defects or wear that may affect proper operation.</li> <li>- Consult manufacturer's manual: Always refer to the excavator and attachment manufacturer's recommendations and instructions for setting up and use.</li> <li>- Verify correct attachment method for each task: Double-check before initiating the process that the chosen attachment method is correct for the specific task at hand, which may involve changing the attachment if necessary.</li> <li>- Maintain clear communication between workers: Employees should be working together and communicating effectively throughout the entire process, ensuring each worker takes necessary precautions and adheres to safety guidelines.</li> <li>- Implement lockout/tagout procedures: Use lockout/tagout devices during the attachment process to prevent unintentional machine activation, protecting workers from potential pinch point injuries.</li> <li>- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): Require equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots while workers are involved in the excavator setup process.</li> <li>- Designate a safe area: Establish a designated area free from the excavator's range of movement, with clear boundaries marked using cones, tapes, or signs to keep non-essential personnel away.</li> <li>- Regularly monitor attachment connections: Schedule routine checks of the attachment connecting points for loosening, wear, or other issues throughout the workday.</li> </ul>	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]	
5. Digging	Contact with underground utilities, Overloading	4A	[REDACTED]	2M
6. Material handling	Falling materials, Unsecured loads	3H	[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]	
9. Maintenance	Poor machine condition, Electrical hazards	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]	
10. Fueling	Fire hazards, Spillage	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
			[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]	
11. Shutdown	Entanglement, Debris Guard	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]	
12. Clean up	Slip and trip hazards. F	2	[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

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"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY</b>		<b>DATE REVIEWED</b>
<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>