

## Forklift (Electric) | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: Forklift (Electric)

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 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

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.

### NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS

### 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 1.5m 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

### RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	<b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records	<b>Administrative</b> Change the work.
<b>Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:</b> 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.								<b>PPE</b>

### 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	Improper PPE, Lack of operator training	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that all workers operating a forklift have completed relevant training and hold appropriate licenses, including training in battery charging procedures for electric forklifts.</li> <li>- Regularly provide refresher courses and additional training as required to keep operators up-to-date with best practices and changes in regulations related to forklift operation.</li> <li>- Conduct pre-shift safety briefings to communicate the importance of proper PPE usage, safe work practices, and any specific hazards present in the work area.</li> <li>- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the forklift tasks being performed, such as safety gloves, steel-toed boots, high-visibility vests, and safety glasses as required.</li> <li>- Implement and enforce a policy requiring all personnel to wear appropriate PPE in the forklift operating areas at all times.</li> <li>- Conduct regular site-specific risk assessments to ensure that the environment is conducive to safe forklift operation, taking into account factors like floor conditions, lighting, and pedestrian traffic.</li> <li>- Establish and maintain designated areas for forklift operation and storage, clearly marked with appropriate warning signs.</li> <li>- Implement an effective maintenance programme for all forklifts, including routine inspections and timely repairs to reduce the risk of equipment malfunction.</li> <li>- Ensure that electric forklift charging stations are set up correctly, well-ventilated, equipped with emergency eyewash stations, and maintained by qualified personnel.</li> <li>- Implement a system for clear communication between forklift operators and other personnel in the vicinity, such as the use of horns, signal lights, or designated spotters.</li> <li>- Develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) for forklift operation, addressing hazards like speed limits, load capacities, and proper stacking techniques.</li> <li>- Promote a culture of accountability and safety through management leadership, encouraging staff to report near misses, unsafe work practices, and any concerns regarding potential hazards.</li> <li>- Regularly review and update the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for electric forklift operations, ensuring that all control measures remain effective in minimising risks and reducing hazards in the workplace.</li> </ul>	1L
2. Pre-start	Forklift malfunction, Obstructed view	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct daily pre-start inspections: Check and verify that all forklift components, including the brakes, steering, controls, and safety devices, are in proper working condition before operation.</li> <li>- Ensure all forklift operators have appropriate training and certifications: Only allow workers with adequate experience, competency, and necessary licenses to operate electric forklifts.</li> <li>- Develop a clear traffic management plan: Establish designated routes and separate pedestrian walkways in the workplace to minimise the risk of collisions and other incidents related to obstructed views.</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>- Remove visible obstructions from the work area: Keep the work environment clean and orderly by clearing away any unnecessary objects or clutter that could impair visibility for the forklift operator.</li> <li>- Utilise designated spotters when necessary: Employ trained individuals to assist the forklift operator in maneuvering the machine safely, especially during challenging or risky situations.</li> <li>- Encourage routine communication between workers: Promote the use of hand signals, two-way radios, or other communication methods to ensure that all employees are aware of the forklift's location and intended movements.</li> <li>- Install mirrors and cameras on forklifts: Enhance visibility for the operator with the aid of strategically placed mirrors and/or camera systems that grant a more comprehensive view of the machine's surroundings.</li> <li>- Implement regular forklift maintenance schedule: Routinely inspect, repair, and replace faulty or worn-out components as needed to prevent malfunctions.</li> <li>- Provide adequate lighting in the workspace: Make sure there is sufficient illumination in the work area to enable the forklift operator to see potential obstacles and navigate safely.</li> <li>- Require operators to honk the horn at intersections or blind spots: Emphasise the importance of using sound signals when approaching areas with obstructed views to alert other workers and avoid accidents.</li> <li>- Train employees on emergency procedures and response plans: Familiarise all staff members with the steps to take in the event of a forklift malfunction or other workplace emergencies, such as evacuations and how to report incidents.</li> <li>- Evaluate and revise existing policies on an ongoing basis: Regularly review and update workplace health and safety protocols to ensure maximum effectiveness in minimising hazards associated with electric forklift operation.</li> </ul>	
3. Zone marking	Inadequate signage, Slips and trips	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior to any operation, conduct a thorough inspection of the work area to clearly identify potential hazards related to inadequate signage and slips and trips.</li> <li>- Install clearly visible warning signs at all entry and exit points for designated forklift zones to inform pedestrians and other workers about the presence of forklift operations in the area.</li> <li>- Utilise high-visibility and reflective marking tape to clearly designate forklift travel paths within the facility, ensuring they are easy to follow for both operators and pedestrians.</li> <li>- Make sure that all employees receive proper training on recognizing and understanding the purpose of the established markings and signage, along with their responsibilities to adhere to them.</li> <li>- Regularly clean and maintain floors and surfaces within the marked zones to minimise the risk of slips and trips due to dirt or debris buildup.</li> <li>- Conduct periodic audits to assess the effectiveness of the implemented control measures and make any necessary adjustments to improve their efficacy.</li> <li>- In low-light situations or areas without adequate lighting, establish supplementary portable lighting solutions to increase visibility of marked zones and signage for all workers.</li> <li>- Clearly mark steps, slopes and changes in level within the forklift-operating zone to reduce slip and trip hazards.</li> </ul>	1L

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep walkways and thoroughfares clear from obstructions that could create additional slip and trip hazards or obstruct access for the forklift.</li> <li>- Implement a process for quickly addressing spills, wet patches, and moisture build-up to mitigate the risk of slips within marked forklift zones.</li> <li>- Encourage open communication between forklift operators and nearby personnel, encouraging both parties to remain aware of each other's movements and minimising the risks associated with inadequate signage.</li> <li>- Ensure that all staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working around forklifts, such as non-slip footwear, to further reduce the risk of slips and trips.</li> <li>- Regularly review and update the WMS for electric forklift usage to incorporate any new hazards, risks or control measures identified during ongoing workplace assessments.</li> </ul>	
4. Load lifting	Unstable load, Overloading	3H	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	2M

strian injury

3H

[illegible]





inch points

3H

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
			<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	
10. Parking	Unauthorised access, Poor visibility	2M	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	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
			<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	
11. Maintenance	Caught in machinery, Electrical hazards	3H	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	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
			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
12. Shut down	Unintended movement, Traffic interference	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	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 IF ANY STATE IS NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2025

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulation 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/factsheets-and-resources/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>

### 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

### 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.

## 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 and 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	