



Handle Volatile Organic Con	npounds SAFE WORK ME	THOD STATEMENT (SWMS)	
TASK OR AG	CTIVITY: Handle Volatile Organic	Compounds	
Business Name:		ABN:	SWMS#
Business Address:			
Contact Person:	Phone:	E 111:	
THIS SAFE WORK METHOD	STATEMENT IS APPRO' D BY	THE PCL OF THE ROJECT	
Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conduct the proposed work starts.	cting a business or under o (PC 1) is	required to en that a safe work method s	statement (SWMS) is prepared before
Full Name:			
Signature:	NY	Title:	Date:
Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring	opliance the VMS a vell as review	s and modifications of the SWMS.	
Full Name:		Title:	Phone:
ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS S /MS M' HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED	NA, 2 OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNI EVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF	EL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND CO	OMMUNICATED TO IN THE
Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be sched and in account with a gislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or continuous each hazard.			
If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must sto, an alately. 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 BIOK CONSTRUCTOR	NAME OF THE POLIT
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTOR	N WC & BEIN C ARIED 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	carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing	\square is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integral of a functure	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asb	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that —quires term — v sup —rt 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 that. tunnel involving use of explosives	☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
\square is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	☐ involves diving work.
ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINER	Y 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	SCORE	ACTION	Elimination Remove the hazard.		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCE	Substitution		
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	Replace the hazard.		
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	Isolate People from the hazard		
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	nitor and	Engineering Isolate the hazard.		
is the second m	rchy of Controls: ost effective metho nging the work is th	d of controlling a	hazard. Enginee	ering by isolati	on is the in ost e	en 'ive, while	rd. Substitution Administrative effective	Administrative Change the work. PPE		

	PERS_VAL 1 TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)										
		Select the app	propriate PPL	abo√ ≃uitab	ic or the equi	pment used or	the job task	being perforr	ned (if applica	ıble).	
FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING ETION	P ECTION	R PIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
Other PPE R	Required:										
	Pe	ermit or Licen	ses Requirem	ents		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	Flammable materials, Inadequate ventilation, Incorrect storage or handling of organic compounds	ЗН	 Conduct a risk assessment specific to the conding of volatile organic compounds to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate control. Ensure all relevant personnel are trained in the containing, storage, and use of volatile organic compounds, including understanding Material Scroy Data Shero (MSDS). Store volatile organic compounds in designated from the containing of the compounds of the compound of the compou	1L
2. Organise Work Area	Poor housekeeping, Volatile vapours, Improper isolation or disposal process	ЗН	 Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment before starting any work involving volatile organic compounds. Implement a strict housekeeping protocol to ensure the work area is clean and clutter-free, reducing the risk of accidents. Install and maintain proper ventilation systems to mitigate exposure to volatile vapours in the work environment. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respirators, gloves, and goggles specifically designed for handling volatile organic compounds. Clearly label all containers with appropriate hazard symbols and handling instructions to prevent accidental exposure. Establish designated storage areas with proper containment measures for volatile organic compounds to minimise leakage and spills. 	2M



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			- Implement spill response kits and train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.	
			- Regularly inspect and maintain all equipment used for handling volatile organic compounds to ensure they are in good working order.	
			- Develop and enforce isolation procedures for a reas where volatile organic compounds are handled to prevent unauthorised access.	
			- Train employees on proper waste disposal property of for materials contaminated with volatile organic compounds in compliance with environmental remarkings.	
			- Use intrinsically safe tools are equipment that do t prome sparks or static electricity near volatile organic compounds.	
			- Schedule regular quare monitoring to identif potential build-up of volatile vapours and take corrective are a finecessar	
			- Provide ongo, training and refreshed arses for employees on the risks associated with volatile organ empour mow to handle them safely.	
			- Developed implement emergency response plans specific to scenarios involving volatile organic compounds, cluding vacuation procedures and first aid measures.	
			- aduct horous training sessions on the correct usage and maintenance of personal protective equip for PPE) to ensure all workers are knowledgeable about the equipment they are using.	
			Supply appropriate PPE including gloves, goggles, respirators, and protective clothing designed s, sifically for handling volatile organic compounds (VOCs).	
			Implement a strict policy for wearing PPE at all times when working with or around VOCs to prevent any accidental exposure to skin or eyes.	
			- Introduce regular checks and inspections of PPE to ensure that all equipment is in good condition and functioning properly; replace any damaged or worn-out equipment immediately.	
	Skin and eve contact. In		- Provide fitting sessions for all PPE to guarantee that each piece fits the individual worker correctly, preventing gaps or leaks which could lead to exposure.	
Personal Protective Equipment usage	proper PPE, Insufficient training on PPE usage	4A	- Develop a robust system for the cleaning and storage of PPE to maintain hygiene and extend the lifespan of the equipment.	2M
			- Ensure that all PPE is compliant with Australian safety standards and regulations to provide adequate protection against the specific hazards posed by VOCs.	
			- Position easily accessible PPE stations near work areas where VOCs are handled so that workers can swiftly don equipment when necessary.	
			- Offer refresher courses regularly to reinforce the importance of PPE and update workers on any changes in policies or new types of equipment available.	
			- Monitor workplace conditions continuously and modify PPE requirements based on current exposure levels or if there are changes in the type of VOCs being used.	
			- Create an accountability program to encourage workers to adhere strictly to PPE protocols, potentially involving peer monitoring or supervisor oversight to maintain compliance.	



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4. Handling identical substances	Faulty equipment/containers, Chemical reaction when mixed with other substances, Spillage or leakage	ЗН		2M
5. Transporting Compounds	Spillage during transport, Exposure to hazardous fumes, Accidental ingestion or inhalation	4A		2M



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				•
				1
	•			
6 Storage of Organia	Incorrect storage, Absence of propelabelling, Uncontrolled arress to age			
6. Storage of Organic Compounds	labelling, Uncontrolled a pess to age area	3H		1L
				_



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7. Maintenance	Inadequate maintenance, Gas leaks, Mechanical failure, Hazardous residuleft in containers / equipment	4A		2M
8. Disposal of waste	Improper waste segregation, Unplanned release of gases, Water pollution	4A		2M



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				•
9. Incidents/Emergency Management	Lack of emergency planning, ivon-compliance to emergency procedures, Provision of untrained first aiders	ЗН		2M



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10. WWHS Regulations Knowledge	Non-compliance to egulations, Insufficient staff to hing, Incompliance to egulations, Insufficient staff to hing, Incompliance to egulations, Insufficient staff to hing, Incompliance to egulations, Insufficient staff to hing,			2M
11. Clean Up Process	Exposure to harmful residues, Inefficien cleaning agents, Releasing volatile gases into the atmosphere	t 3H		2M



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				•
12. Decontamination of tools and equipment	Improper cleaning of tools and equipment, Exposure to chemical residues	4A		2M



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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
13. Checking Equipment	Lack of regular inspection, Malfunction defects in equipment, Improper maintenance practices	ЗН		1L



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14. Reporting	Incomplete incident reports, Lack of hazard reporting procedures, Absence of timely reporting	3H		1L
15. Debrief / handover briefing	Miscommunication, Aspects missed during debriefing could lead to hazards	2M		1L



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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. ANY STATE OF AT ARE NOT APPLICABLE.

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

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

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

New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislatide

Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/lis > odes-oi racti

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulation 2011

Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/f

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/work_aces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations

Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria

Occupational Health at Safety Act 34

Occupational Health and Infety gulations 2017

Legis on VIC: https://www.csafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-

gulat

tes of actice VIC attps://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work





SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

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

Worker Name	Signature	Date

SAFE WORK IN THE STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains a fective of must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The view process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU mast ensure that 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 rest of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties and the 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:

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

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

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





SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

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

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	COMMENTS
		•
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.		
All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.		
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.		
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	7	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.		
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.		
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.		
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS		
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column pleted.		
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selective.		
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the part the improvention control measures.		
Permit or licenses requirements specified, sur as Hot Work, Electric Work, Work at Heights etc.		
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be us		
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed a noted on the SWMS.		
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, or skills required to perform the work.		
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.		
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.		
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.		
REVIEWED BY	DATE REVIEWE	D
SIGNATURE	DATE COMPLETE	ED .