

Plasma Cutter | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Plasma Cutter

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| 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.

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 |
| 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 | Trip hazards, Falling objects | 2M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a thorough risk assessment before starting any work to identify potential trip hazards, falling objects, and other related hazards. - Keep the work area clean and free from clutter including excess materials, cords, hoses, and tools to minimise trip hazards. - Use appropriate cable and hose management systems such as cable ramps or covers, to prevent cords and hoses from becoming trip hazards. - Store equipment and materials securely and away from walkways when not in use to avoid creating obstacles and trip hazards. - Ensure all work surfaces, floors, and access areas are clean, dry, and free from debris to reduce slipping, tripping, and falling hazards. - Implement barricades, barriers, or signage to restrict unauthorised personnel from accessing the work area. - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety footwear with slip-resistant soles, to reduce slip, trip, and falls. - Inspect scaffolding, ladders, and other elevated work platforms before use to ensure they are secure and free from defects that may cause a fall hazard. - Train workers on proper lifting techniques and provide adequate assistance to prevent falling objects due to poor manual handling. - Securely store and stack materials, tools, and equipment, using stabilization methods, such as shelving units, racks, or straps, to prevent them from falling. - Use adequate lighting to illuminate work areas and pathways, ensuring workers have clear visibility of potential trip hazards and falling objects. - Regularly inspect and maintain tools and equipment to ensure their proper functioning and to prevent falling objects that may be caused by equipment malfunction. - Require workers to communicate openly regarding any identified hazards, providing a platform for addressing and resolving these concerns promptly. - Establish an emergency plan outlining procedures for responding to incidents involving trip hazards or falling objects, ensuring workers are well-trained and prepared to react in a timely and appropriate manner. | 1L |
| 2. Equipment Setup | Electrical shock, Burns | 3H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Properly inspect and maintain all electrical equipment, including the plasma cutter and its components, to ensure they are in good working condition. - Ensure that only trained and competent personnel are permitted to set up and operate the plasma cutter. - Establish a designated area for using the plasma cutter that is free from flammable materials, excess moisture, and other hazards. | 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 |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all electrical outlets to minimise the risk of electrical shock. - Disconnect the power source to the plasma cutter when setting up or performing maintenance on the equipment. - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as insulated gloves, safety glasses, and flame-resistant clothing, to protect against burns and electric shock. - Ensure proper ventilation in the work area to dissipate heat generated during the plasma cutting process as well as any fumes or gases released. - Implement a lockout/tagout system to prevent accidental energising of the equipment while it is being serviced or maintained. - Double-check all connections, including power cords and hoses, for secure attachment before operating the plasma cutter. - Keep a suitable fire extinguisher in close proximity to the work area in case of an emergency. - Regularly check for any signs of wear or damage on cables and hoses, and replace them promptly if necessary. - Practice safe lifting and handling techniques when moving and setting up heavy equipment like the plasma cutter. - Avoid working with the plasma cutter in wet or damp conditions, as this can increase the risk of electric shock. - Train employees on emergency procedures, such as how to shut off the plasma cutter and call for assistance in case of an incident. | |
| 3. Material Handling | Manual handling injuries, Struck by moving objects | 2M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proper training: Ensure that all workers handling materials are trained in correct manual handling techniques, including correct lifting, carrying, and placing of objects to minimise risk of injury. - Use mechanical aids: Encourage the use of mechanical aids such as trolleys, hand trucks, or forklifts whenever possible to help with moving heavy or awkward materials to reduce manual handling risks. - Plan material layout: Establish clear working areas and routes for moving materials to minimise congestion and any unnecessary movements, reducing the chance of being struck by moving objects. - Storage and organisation: Store materials neatly at designated locations and keep walkways clear, making it easier to handle materials safely. Provide adequate lighting and signage where necessary. - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Ensure workers are wearing appropriate PPE, such as gloves, safety boots, and hi-visibility vests to protect against potential injuries. - Team lifts: Where necessary, implement a buddy system or team lifts for heavy loads to ease the burden on individual workers and prevent overexertion injuries. - Regular breaks: Allow sufficient rest periods for workers engaged in repetitive or strenuous material handling tasks to avoid fatigue-related injuries. - Implement a safe work zone: Set up designated safe zones around the plasma cutter and other equipment to prevent accidents due to moving materials near the cutting area. | 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 |
| | | | [REDACTED] | |
| 5. PPE Inspection | Inadequate PPE, Misuse of PPE | 2M | [REDACTED] | 1L |
| 6. Electric Supply Connection | Electric shock, Fire 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 |
| 12. Equipment Shutdown | Stored energy release, Leaks/pooling gases | 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 |
| 13. Maintenance Tasks | Unexpected activation, Entanglement | 3H | [REDACTED] | 2M |
| 14. Post-work Area Clean-up | Slip hazards, Falls from heights | 2M | | 1L |

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 IF 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/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/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Safe Work Australia Links

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

South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
 Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>
 Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

Model Codes of Practice

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

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012
 Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
 Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
 Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>
 Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

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

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

SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

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

| Worker Name | Signature | Date |
|-------------|-----------|------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review must be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and sub-contractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represent that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

The SWMS must be monitored regularly for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

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

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

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

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

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

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