

Positioning Masonry Units | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Positioning Masonry Units

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			 <p>Elimination Remove the hazard.</p> <p>Substitution Replace the hazard.</p> <p>Isolation Isolate People from the hazard</p> <p>Engineering Isolate the hazard.</p> <p>Administrative Change the work.</p> <p>PPE</p>	
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		

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	Trips and falls, Hand injuries, Falling objects	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a pre-start meeting to discuss the work plan and associated hazards with all team members. - Ensure that all personnel have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety boots, gloves, hard hats, and high-visibility clothing. - Set up barriers or markings to define the work area clearly and keep non-essential personnel out of hazard zones. - Inspect tools and equipment for defects or wear before starting work and remove any damaged items from service immediately. - Maintain a clean and organized work area to minimise tripping hazards, ensuring pathways are clear of debris and obstacles. - Ensure proper manual handling techniques are used to avoid hand injuries such as proper lifting, carrying and stacking methods. - Use mechanical aids such as forklifts or trolleys wherever possible to move heavy masonry units, reducing reliance on manual handling. - Conduct regular safety checks to ensure that scaffolding, ladders, and other access equipment are secure and stable. - Store masonry units in a flat, stable manner to prevent them from rolling or falling during movement or when stored. - Implement dropping prevention procedures, using chutes or controlled drops to safely lower materials rather than allowing them to fall freely. - Ensure adequate lighting in all work areas to improve visibility and reduce the risk of trips and falls. - Train workers on recognising potential falling object hazards and safe practices to prevent objects from being dislodged or dropped. 	2M
2. Materials Handling	Machinery accidents, Heavy lifting injuries	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct thorough training for all workers on safe materials handling techniques, including lifting and manoeuvring machinery. - Use mechanical aids such as forklifts, cranes, or hoists to handle heavy masonry units and minimise manual lifting. - Ensure all machinery is regularly maintained and inspected according to manufacturer's guidelines to prevent malfunctioning. - Designate clear paths and restricted areas for machinery operation to reduce the risk of accidents. - Implement a buddy system where workers lift and move materials together, reducing individual strain. - Equip workers with appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, helmets, and steel-capped boots to prevent injuries. 	2M

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use proper lifting techniques, placing emphasis on bending knees and keeping a straight back when lifting manually. - Limit the weight of manually lifted loads by breaking down shipments into smaller, manageable parts when possible. - Ensure good housekeeping, keeping walkways and work areas free of obstacles and debris to prevent slips, trips, and falls. - Rotate job tasks to avoid prolonged exposure to heavy lifting and allow for muscle recovery. - Schedule regular breaks to alleviate physical strain from repetitive motions and heavy lifting. - Install ergonomic equipment like adjustable work platforms to assist in positioning masonry units at various heights. - Position warning signs and barriers around machinery operations to alert and protect workers and visitors. - Establish communication protocols using radios or hand signals to coordinate between machine operators and ground staff effectively. 	
3. Installation of Masonry Units	Lacerations, Eye injury, Back strain	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a pre-start meeting to outline safe work practices and discuss potential hazards specific to installing masonry units. - Ensure workers are provided with and use appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves and safety glasses or goggles, to prevent lacerations and eye injuries. - Use mechanical aids, such as forklifts or hoists, to minimise manual handling and reduce the risk of back strain. - Train workers in proper lifting techniques, emphasising the importance of keeping loads close to the body and lifting with the legs rather than the back. - Provide adjustable scaffolding and platforms to ensure workers have safe access to the installation area and can maintain a comfortable posture. - Implement a buddy system where workers assist each other with positioning heavy or awkward masonry units to distribute the load. - Keep work areas tidy and free from obstructions to prevent trips and falls during masonry installation. - Schedule regular breaks for workers to minimise fatigue, which can contribute to poor handling techniques and increase injury risk. - Ensure tools used for cutting or adjusting masonry units are properly maintained and used according to manufacturer instructions to prevent accidents. - Erect physical barriers or warning signs to keep non-essential personnel out of the masonry installation area. - Utilise lifting devices equipped with suction cups or clamps designed specifically for handling masonry units safely. - Position temporary barricades to protect workers from materials falling or shifting unexpectedly during the installation process. 	3H

cement mix, Inhalation

3H

SAMPLE

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
6. Jointing and Finishing	Repetitive strain injuries, Cuts from tools	3H	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	2M
7. Clean up	Tripping over debris, Inhaling fumes	2M	<div></div> <div></div>	1L

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9. Cutting & Drilling	Machinery accidents, Noise exposure, Dust inhalation	4A		2M
10. Use of Powered Tools	Electrical shock, Cuts, Noise exposure	4A		3H

alls, Hypothermia or

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
14. Set up scaffolding	Tripping, Falling from height	4A	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	3H

[illegible]

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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
18. Use of Vibratory Equipment	Vibration exposure, Noise exposure	3H		2M
19. Working Near Water	Drowning, Slips, trips and falls	3H		2M

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			<div>SAMPLE</div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	
20. Dealing with Accidents and Emergencies	Lack of first aid provision, Panic, Further injury	4A	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	3H

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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>

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/legislation>

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

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 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>

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.

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>

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 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 as 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