

Use Of Abseiling Equipment | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Use Of Abseiling Equipment

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			Elimination Remove the hazard.
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	Substitution Replace the hazard.
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	Isolation Isolate People from the hazard
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	Engineering Isolate the hazard.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records	Administrative Change the work.
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.								PPE

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	Incorrect use of equipment, tripping over equipment	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct thorough training for all personnel on the proper use and maintenance of abseiling equipment. - Perform a pre-use inspection of all equipment to ensure it is in good condition and compliant with safety standards. - Ensure there is a competent safety supervisor on site to oversee the preparation process. - Keep work areas clear by organising equipment and storage to prevent tripping hazards. - Use clearly defined zones for storing equipment and ensure these zones are marked and maintained throughout the operation. - Implement a buddy system during preparation to double-check readiness and safety measures. - Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including helmets, gloves, and non-slip footwear, and ensure they are worn at all times. - Develop a clear communication plan using hand signals or radios to maintain coordination among team members. - Verify that all anchorage points are adequately tested and certified to hold the required loads safely. - Conduct a risk assessment before starting activities to identify specific hazards and implement control measures accordingly. - Ensure an emergency response plan is in place and communicated to all team members, including procedures for evacuation and rescue. 	2M
2. Equipment Check	Malfunctioning equipment, inadequate personal safety gear	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspect all abseiling equipment for any signs of wear and tear before use, including ropes, harnesses, carabiners, and descenders. - Conduct a thorough pre-use check by a qualified person to confirm that all equipment meets the required safety standards and is fit for purpose. - Ensure all personal protective equipment (PPE) is suitable for abseiling and includes items such as helmets, gloves, and appropriate footwear. - Verify that harnesses are correctly fitted and adjusted for each individual worker prior to starting the task. - Implement a regular maintenance schedule for all abseiling equipment and keep detailed records of inspections and maintenance activities. - Replace any equipment that shows signs of damage or does not pass inspection immediately and remove it from service. - Ensure all workers are trained to recognise faulty equipment and understand the importance of using only approved gear. - Provide refresher training sessions regularly to update workers on any changes in equipment standards or procedures. 	2M

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish clear communication protocols for reporting any equipment issues discovered during checks. - Use equipment only within its designed capacity and adhere strictly to manufacturer guidelines to prevent overloading. - Ensure a secondary safety system is always in place, such as backup lines or redundant attachments, to protect against primary system failure. 	
3. Safety Briefing	Miscommunication, lack of understanding of procedures	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a comprehensive safety induction for all workers involved in the abseiling operation, ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities. - Use clear and concise language during all safety briefings to minimise miscommunication risks. - Implement a 'repeat-back' method where workers repeat instructions to confirm understanding and clarity of procedures. - Utilise visual aids such as diagrams or videos to demonstrate the correct use of abseiling equipment and techniques. - Ensure that all safety briefings are conducted in a quiet area free from distractions to focus on critical information. - Provide printed materials or digital access to the procedures and protocols discussed during the briefing for future reference. - Encourage an open forum where workers can ask questions and seek clarification on any parts of the procedure they do not fully understand. - Assign a dedicated supervisor to oversee the briefing process and ensure all key points have been covered. - Establish a clear communication chain and protocol for reporting issues encountered during the task. - Include regular checks on comprehension throughout the briefing by asking questions and requiring feedback from participants. - Schedule follow-up briefings or touch-point meetings to address any changes in procedures or newly identified risks. - Offer multilingual support or translation services if there are non-native English speakers among the workforce. - Develop and employ a terminology guide specific to the project to ensure all workers have a consistent understanding of terms used within the procedures. 	1L
4. Ascending	Falling objects, exhaustion, poor weather conditions	4A	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	2M

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6. Descending	Inadequate control of descent speed, dislodging of objects	3H	<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> <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>	2M
7. Disassembling Setup	Mishandling of abseiling equipment, incorrect disassembly causing injury	3H	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	2M

at leading to accidents,
e of equipment

3H

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9. Emergency Rescue Procedures	Falling from height, rope entanglement	3H		2M
10. Observing Weather Conditions	Severe weather causing dangerous working conditions	3H		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> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	
11. Handling Vital Supplies	Spilling or loss of supplies due to careless handling, insufficient supplies	2M	<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>	1L

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
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12. Continuous Risk Management	Neglecting to continually assess risks, complacency	3H		2M
13. Post-operation Debrief and Report	Failing to report every activity and hazard	3H		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>	
14. Discarding Damaged Gear	Inappropriate disposal causing harm, failed recall of damaged equipment	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L

ion, inadequate skills

3H

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 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>

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) 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>

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