Working With Compound Mitre Saws | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Working With Compound Mitre Saws

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 and 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	
☐ 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	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing	☐ is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support 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 than or tunnel involving use of explosives	☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
☐ is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	☐ involves diving work.

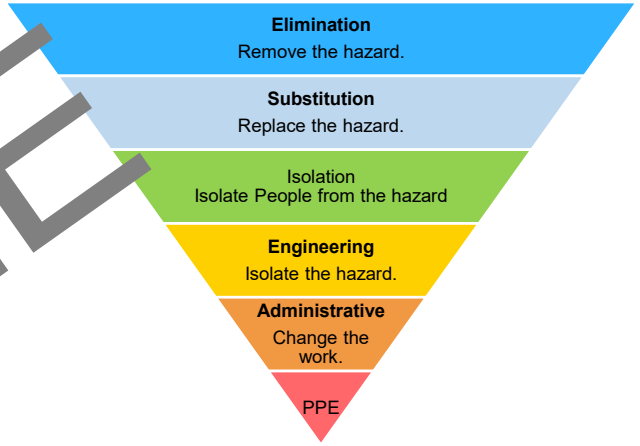
ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

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 PROCEE
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review befo 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	nitor and k records

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls: Elimination methods are the most effective and preferre en co lli a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the ost e ve, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Eq ment) he least effective method.

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS



PERS NAL P TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Select the appropriate PPE bov uitable or the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).

FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING C ECTION	EY CTION	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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	Falling objects, Slips and trips when carrying the saw	2M	- Ensure the work area is clean, tidy and free of any obstructions that could pose a tripping hazard when carrying the saw. - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as steel-toed boots and gloves to reduce the risk of injury from falling objects or during transportation. - Conduct a visual inspection of the area above the worksite to ensure there are no overhead risks of falling objects. - Arrange tools and materials in an orderly manner to prevent them from being accidentally knocked over and causing injuries. - Use proper lifting techniques when carrying the saw to prevent strain or injury, keeping the load close to your body, bending your knees, and maintaining a straight back. - Ensure that all pathways used for transporting the saw are clear of clutter and are not slippery. Clean up any spills immediately. - Secure and fasten and package the saw with protective coverings if necessary to prevent parts from falling off during transport. - Communicate with team members and alert them when moving the saw to avoid collisions or accidents. - Mark designated pathways for safe movement through the workspace when carrying heavy or hazardous equipment like a mitre saw. - Where possible, use mechanical aids such as trolleys or carts to transport the saw safely and minimise manual handling risks. - Schedule regular maintenance checks of the mitre saw to ensure components are securely fastened and there is minimal risk of sudden detachment. - Brief all workers on the potential hazards identified in the preparation phase and reinforce the importance of adhering to control measures.	1L
2. Inspection of Saw	Electric shock, Cutting oneself on sharp edges	3H	- Ensure the saw is unplugged from the power source before conducting any inspection or maintenance to prevent electric shock. - Regularly inspect the power cord and plug for any signs of damage, fraying, or exposure. Replace immediately if any defects are found. - Verify that all power connections are secure and that there is no moisture near electrical components. - Inspect the blade guard to ensure it is functional, not damaged, and properly covers the blade when the saw is not in use. - Check that the blade is correctly installed, tight, and free from cracks or damage. Replace worn or damaged blades promptly.	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
			- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as cut-resistant gloves when handling or inspecting the blade. - Confirm that all safety switches and other safety features are operational and not bypassed or disabled. - Inspect guards and fences for proper alignment, ensuring they provide adequate protection during operation. - Examine all moving parts for smooth operation without excessive play or resistance, which could indicate wear or improper installation. - Make sure workspace is clear of trip hazards and that there is sufficient lighting for safe operation and inspection of the tool. - Only authorized personnel who are trained and competent should perform inspections or any adjustments on the compound mitre saw. - Keep a log of all inspections and maintenance activities, including findings and corrective actions taken, to ensure ongoing compliance with safety standards.	
3. Setting Up Work Area	Trip hazards from power cords, Hazardous noise	3H	- Ensure all power cords are neatly coiled and placed in designated areas to avoid trip hazards. - Use cable covers or mats over cords when they cross walkways to prevent tripping. - Organise the work area to keep the floor free of clutter and ensure clear pathways. - Keep the saw and all electrical equipment at a safe distance from water or wet areas. - Provide adequate lighting to clearly see any potential trip hazards and ensure precision in tasks. - Use residual-current devices (RCDs) to reduce the risk of electric shock if cords are damaged. - Position the saw on a stable, flat surface to prevent it from tipping over during operations. - Establish and maintain a clean zone around the workbench by regularly clearing away off-cuts and debris. - Implement hearing protection policies and provide appropriate earplugs or earmuffs for all workers. - Display signage indicating areas where hearing protection is mandatory. - Regularly test and tag all electrical cords and equipment following safety compliance standards. - Conduct routine inspections to ensure control measures are effective and rectify any issues promptly.	2M
4. Assembling materials	Hand injuries due to handling, Eye injuries from flying particles	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
5. Operating Saw	Unintentional start-up, Kickback of saw	4A	[redacted]	3H

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]	
6. Maintenance checks	Risk of burns from hot parts, Risk of electric shock	3H	[redacted]	2M
7. Worksite clean up	Slip, trip and fall Hazards, Breathing dust during cleaning	4A	[redacted]	3H

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]	
8. Breakdown and storage	Heavy lifting injuries, Incorrect usage of tools	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
9. Transportation of Saw	Heavy lifting injuri drop or collision during movement	4A	[redacted]	3H
10. Use of Personal Protective equipment (PPE)	Incorrect use causing injury, exposure to harmful substances	2M	[redacted]	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]	
11. Regular training sessions	Injury from unfamiliarity with machinery, Ergonomic and posture-related injuries	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
12. Health emergency procedures	Risks associated with incorrect manual handling, risks associated with lack of emergency preparedness	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
13. Proper ventilation	Exposure to dust and airborne particles, Skin irritation due to contact with materials	3H	[redacted]	2M
14. Waste disposal	Potential cut injuries from disposed materials, Hazardous waste contamination	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
15. Regular breaks	Fatigue, decrease in alert[redacted]ading to accidents	3H	[redacted]	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
16. Worksite inspection	Unidentified safety risks, potential for unnoticed structural defects	3H	[redacted]	2M
17. Continuous monitoring of operations	Risks associated with delayed response to operational issues	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
18. Log entries and documentation	Risk of errors due to lack of attention, Miscommunication among staff	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	
19. Proper communication among workmates	Misunderstandings can lead to accidents, Psychological stress from hostile environment	[redacted]	[redacted]	2M
20. Outlining safety guidelines	Inconsistent or unclear guidelines can increase risk, Non-compliance to safety protocols	3H	[redacted]	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
			[redacted]	

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 FOR 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-of-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/forms-and-resources/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 process should 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 represented 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.	☒	
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.	☒	
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 completed.	☒	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selection.	☒	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	☒	
Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	☒	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	☒	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed and noted on the SWMS.	☒	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training 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 REVIEWED**	
SIGNATURE		**DATE COMPLETED**	