

Angle Grinder | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Angle Grinder

Business Name: [Company Name]

ABN: [ABN]

SWMS#

Business Address: [Company Address]

Contact Person:

Phone: [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 AND DATED SIGNATURE 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, secondly to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

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 Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as a scope of works).
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Project Manager Signature:	
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 1.5m 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

☐ Forklift	☐ Crane/s	☐ Hoist/s	☐ Excavator	☐ Backhoe/Loader	☐ Boom Lift	☐ EWP	☐ Genie Lift
☐ Trencher	☐ Drilling Rig	☐ Trucks	☐ Formwork	☐ Bobcat	☐ Flammable Gas	☐ Fuel	☐ Dozer
☐ High Voltage	☐ Mulcher	☐ Tilt-up Panels	☐ Roller	☐ Scissor Lift	☐ Tractor	☐ Other -	

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.											
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)											
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
											
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).											
Note: A SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective. A SWMS 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 subcontractors) 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 a SWMS has been revised, the person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure all: - persons involved in the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS; - 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; and, - workers that will be involved in the work are provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.											

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
1. Preparation	Trip hazards, Unsecured work area	2M	- Clear the work area of all potential trip hazards, such as loose cables, cords, and debris. - Properly secure all loose objects within the work area to minimise the likelihood of accidents. - Conduct a thorough walk-through of the entire space before beginning any work to identify potential risks and address them accordingly. - Install appropriate non-slip flooring or mats in areas where workers will frequently be moving around to reduce the risk of slip and fall injuries. - Ensure that all access routes to and from the work area are kept clear, well-lit, and free from obstructions at all times. - Establish designated storage solutions for tools, equipment, and materials to prevent them from becoming trip hazards within the workspace. - Require workers to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes with slip-resistant soles to provide better traction on potentially slippery surfaces. - Implement regular housekeeping practices, such as sweeping and general tidying, to maintain a clean and orderly workspace. - Provide adequate lighting in the work area to ensure proper visibility for workers who will use the angle grinder and avoid mishaps caused by poor illumination. - Implement safety training and education programs to teach workers about the importance of maintaining a secure work environment and adopting safe practices while using an angle grinder. - Supervise the work area actively and consistently enforce safety rules and guidelines to ensure their compliance among all workers.	1L	
2. Equipment Inspection	Damaged cords, Worn-out blades	3H	- Regularly inspect and maintain all electrical cords for any damage, including cuts, frays, or exposed wiring, before using the angle grinder. - Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as safety glasses, gloves, and hearing protection when performing inspections. - Keep a log of equipment inspections and necessary maintenance work to ensure timely upkeep and safe usage of the angle grinder. - Replace damaged cords immediately to prevent electrocution hazards. - Make sure the power tool is unplugged from the electrical outlet before inspecting or changing the blade. - Continuously check the blades for signs of wear and tear, such as cracks, chips, or dulled cutting edges, during routine inspections. - Always replace worn-out or damaged blades with manufacturer-approved parts designed specifically for the model and intended task.	2M	

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
			- Clean and lubricate blades regularly to extend their life span and ensure smooth operation. - Secure the angle grinder in a stationary position during inspections to prevent accidental movement and injuries. - Use the proper techniques for mounting and dismounting blades, as outlined by the manufacturer's instructions. - Train all employees who use the angle grinder on safe handling and operating procedures, including equipment inspection, before granting them access to the tool. - Implement an equipment inspection schedule that follows manufacturer recommendations, and define responsibilities of designated employees. - Encourage employees to report any concerns about the condition or performance of the angle grinder so that corrective action can be taken promptly. - Complete regular audits and document findings to ensure control measures are effectively reducing hazards associated with equipment inspection and use.		
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Inadequate PPE, Incompatibility with equipment	3H	- Conduct a thorough risk assessment before starting the work to identify and evaluate the hazards related to the use of angle grinders, considering the specific work environment, tools, and materials. - Ensure workers using angle grinders are fully trained and competent to perform the required tasks while adhering to proper safety practices and wearing the appropriate PPE. - Provide necessary PPE for workers such as safety goggles or face shields, appropriate gloves, ear protection, sturdy work boots, and dust masks, as deemed suitable for the task at hand. - Inspect all PPE regularly and make sure they meet the relevant Australian Standards, replacing any damaged, worn, or expired equipment immediately. - Check that PPE is compatible with the angle grinder and other equipment being used in the task, preventing any potential entanglement, obstruction, or hindrance during operation. - Verify that workers have received training on how to correctly use their PPE, including the different types and selection criteria, appropriate fit, storage, maintenance, and disposal. - Establish a system of supervision where experienced staff members oversee the work being carried out, ensuring everyone is following established safety protocols, including proper PPE usage. - Consider alternative methods or processes that will minimise the generation of dust and debris, reducing the need for PPE while still maintaining required quality standards.	1L	

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			- Implement sufficient ventilation and extraction systems to reduce the accumulation of harmful dust or fumes in the working area, further alleviating the reliance on PPE for protection. - Communicate clear guidelines on when to obtain new PPE, ensuring there is a prompt replacement available in case of damage or normal wear and tear. - Encourage workers to report any discomfort, difficulty or incidents resulting from their PPE or equipment use, facilitating open communication channels for feedback and improvement. - Regularly review work practices and effectiveness of PPE in mitigating risks, ensuring new information and advances in technology are considered in maintaining the safest working environment possible. - Engage staff in ongoing training and information sessions, emphasising the importance of using appropriate PPE, recognizing hazards, and following safe work practices when operating angle grinders. - Foster a positive workplace culture where workers take pride in their own safety and that of their colleagues, reinforcing the value of adhering to established policies and procedures including the use of adequate PPE.		
4. Securing Workpiece	Improper clamping, Unstable work surface	3H	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	1L	

elements

and injury

4A

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
8. Monitoring Cutting Progress	Dust inhalation, Eye strain	2M	[REDACTED]	1L	
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		
			[REDACTED]		

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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10. Shutting Down Angle Grinder	Burn hazards, Unexpected startup	3H		2M	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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12. Maintenance and Storage	Improper maintenance, Disorganized tool storage	2M		1L	

SAMPLE

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://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety/laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/resource-library/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://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://www.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	Position	Signature	Date	Time	Supervisor
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			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 subcontractors) 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	TO BE DONE	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	☐	☐	
Names and signatures of 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) columns completed.	☐	☐	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective solutions.	☐	☐	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	☐	☐	
Permit 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 are 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.	☐	☐	
Lists any required permits or licenses.	☐	☐	
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	