

## Asbestos Removal | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: Asbestos Removal

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

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

## 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	Asbestos fibre exposure, Incorrect tool usage	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure all workers involved in the asbestos removal process are adequately trained and qualified specific to asbestos removal tasks.</li> <li>- Establish a clearly marked exclusion zone around the asbestos removal area with appropriate signage to prevent unauthorised access.</li> <li>- Conduct a thorough risk assessment prior to commencement of work to identify potential hazards associated with asbestos exposure.</li> <li>- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including respirators, gloves, coveralls, and eye protection that meet Australian standards for asbestos handling.</li> <li>- Implement wetting techniques to minimise the release of asbestos fibres during removal. This involves using water sprays or misters to keep asbestos materials damp.</li> <li>- Equip workers with HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaners for cleaning the area and ensuring no dry sweeping to prevent dust suspension.</li> <li>- Provide decontamination units or facilities for workers to safely remove and dispose of their PPE and clean themselves before breaks and at the end of their shift.</li> <li>- Use only tools and equipment specifically designed or safe for use in asbestos removal, avoiding power tools that can generate dust.</li> <li>- Proper waste management procedures should be in place to handle and dispose of asbestos material safely according to local council and environmental regulations.</li> <li>- Implement regular air monitoring in the area to detect fibre levels and ensure they do not exceed the exposure standard.</li> <li>- Conduct tool box talks and safety briefings daily to discuss the work process, any changes, and reinforce safety measures concerning asbestos handling.</li> <li>- Maintain clear documentation and records of all asbestos-related activities, including disposal receipts and air monitoring results.</li> <li>- Develop and implement an emergency response plan for accidents or unexpected asbestos fibre release situations.</li> <li>- Verify that all legal and compliance documents for asbestos removal are maintained and accessible, including notifications to relevant health and safety authorities at least five days before commencing work.</li> </ul>	1L
2. Site setup	Dust generation, Trip hazards	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish a clearly defined work area using barrier tape and safety signs to inform all personnel of the hazardous work zone.</li> <li>- Conduct a pre-work site inspection to identify and remove any potential trip hazards such as loose wires, debris, or uneven surfaces.</li> <li>- Install high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units to capture asbestos fibres and dust effectively.</li> </ul>	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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dampen surfaces prior to commencing work to minimise dust generation during asbestos removal.</li> <li>- Provide workers with personal protective equipment (PPE), including respirators, disposable coveralls, gloves, and safety shoes.</li> <li>- Implement regular PPE checks and replace any damaged or contaminated gear immediately.</li> <li>- Use closed skip bins for the disposal of asbestos materials to prevent dust dispersal.</li> <li>- Schedule regular breaks for workers where possible to leave the hazardous area, reducing prolonged exposure to dust.</li> <li>- Train all personnel on the specific procedures to follow in case of accidental disturbance of asbestos material.</li> <li>- Conduct daily briefings to discuss work program, reinforce safety measures, and address any concerns from the workforce.</li> <li>- Place warning signage around the perimeter of the site to ensure that only authorised personnel enter the work area.</li> <li>- Use covered walkways or designate clear pathways through the site to reduce the risk of trips and falls.</li> <li>- Regularly clean tools and equipment used for asbestos removal with approved industrial vacuum cleaners fitted with HEPA filters.</li> <li>- Keep up-to-date inventory of all materials and equipment, noting their condition and location on-site to enhance overall safety management.</li> </ul>	
3. Enclosure installation	Falling objects, Sharp tools	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-job briefing to ensure all workers understand the specific hazards and procedures associated with enclosure installation.</li> <li>- Provide comprehensive training for all workers on the correct handling and use of tools and equipment needed for safely installing enclosures.</li> <li>- Ensure that all personnel wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including hard hats, gloves, eye protection, and cut-resistant clothing.</li> <li>- Use barricades or warning signs around the work area to prevent unauthorized access and protect against falling objects.</li> <li>- Regularly inspect tools and equipment for integrity and functionality before use to prevent injuries from malfunctioning or sharp tools.</li> <li>- Secure all materials and tools when not in use to prevent them from becoming airborne or causing injury.</li> <li>- Implement a tool tethering system where feasible to prevent tools from dropping and posing a risk to workers below.</li> <li>- Design and install overhead protective structures as necessary to shield workers from potential falling debris during the installation process.</li> <li>- Establish clear communication protocols using radios or hand signals to coordinate movements and alert others of potential dangers.</li> </ul>	1L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Utilize ergonomic tools and lifting techniques to reduce strain during handling tasks.</li> <li>- Schedule regular breaks to reduce fatigue-related errors and maintain crew alertness.</li> <li>- Foster a culture of safety by encouraging workers to report unsafe conditions without fear of repercussion.</li> </ul>
<p>ment, Dust ingress</p> <p>2M</p>		<div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 90%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 98%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 95%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 70%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 85%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 60%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 90%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 10px; width: 95%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

SAMPLE





**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
8. Vacuuming	Electrical hazards, Noise pollution	3H		2M
9. Tools cleaning	Chemical hazards, Equipment malfunction	3H		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
12. Air clearance testing	Insufficient sampling, Misinterpretation of results			1L
13. Transport of waste	Traffic accidents, Hazardous material spillage	3H		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
			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
14. Documentation	Data breaches, Loss of records	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	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
16. Site inspection Post-removal	Incomplete removal, Remaining asbestos debris	2M		1L
17. Monitoring and review	Inefficient monitoring tools, Non- compliance with regulations	2M		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>[Redacted Content]</div>	
18. Final area clean-up	Residual contamination, Inadequate disposal methods	3H	<div>[Redacted Content]</div>	2M





A large, light blue rectangular area representing a sample space or a set of data points. The area is divided into four quadrants by a vertical and a horizontal line. The top-left quadrant is a solid light blue. The top-right quadrant is a solid dark blue. The bottom-left quadrant is a solid light blue. The bottom-right quadrant is a solid dark blue. The word "SAMPLE" is written diagonally across the center of the image in a large, light blue, sans-serif font.

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
20. Follow-up actions	Misreporting, Lack of monitoring	M		1L

## 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 REFERENCE IN 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/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 2012

Legislation NT: <https://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://www.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://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.

## 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 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.	<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 solutions.	<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		
SIGNATURE		
DATE REVIEWED		
DATE COMPLETED		