Circular Saw | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Circular Saw

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		
	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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.			
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:	Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as a scope of works).
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Project Manager Signature:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

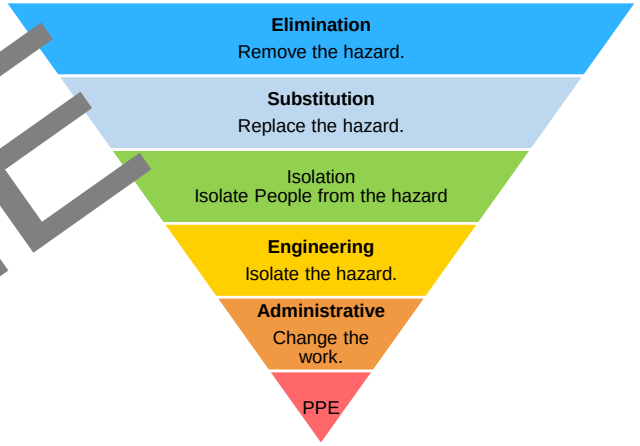
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT	
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-be	☐ is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services.
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrit of a stru	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere.
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing as stos.	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete.
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that re mporar upp 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
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

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS



Notes on Hierarchy of Controls: Elimination methods are the most effective and preferre en co lli d 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.

PERS NAL TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	E PROTE	SPIRATORY 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:

1. persons involved in the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS;
2. 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,
3. 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	Slips, trips and falls, Back injuries from incorrect lifting	2M	- Conduct a thorough risk assessment of the work area to identify any potential hazards such as uneven ground, slip or trip hazards, and obstacles. - Maintain a clean and organised workspace, ensuring that all cables and equipment are properly stored and no debris is scattered around the work area. - Apply non-slip floor treatments or mats to prevent slips on wet surfaces or provide additional grip in areas prone to spillages. - Provide workers with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as slip-resistant footwear, to reduce accidents caused by slipping. - Clearly mark any changes in elevation, like steps or slopes, in the work area using highly visible markings or signage to minimise tripping hazards. - Ensure that proper lighting is present to promote visibility, allowing workers to detect and avoid slip or trip hazards more easily. - Conduct regular maintenance checks on the worksite, including identifying and addressing any hazards that could lead to slips, trips, or falls. - Educate workers about safe lifting practices and encourage them to use mechanical aids when lifting heavy objects to prevent back injuries. - Provide sufficient space for safe movement and lifting procedures, minimising the risk of colliding with other workers or objects. - Implement team lifting practices for exceptionally heavy or awkward items to distribute the load among multiple workers and reduce the risk of injury. - Establish a culture of safety consciousness by holding regular training sessions and toolbox talks, focusing on workplace safety, and promoting open communication regarding potential hazards. - Encourage workers to report any unsafe conditions immediately, enabling prompt response and rectification to minimise risk. - Review and update the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) regularly to ensure it remains current and accurately addresses the risks associated with the use of a circular saw in relation to the work environment and tasks involved.	1L	
2. Setup	Electric shock, Cuts and lacerations	3H	- Regular equipment inspection: Ensure all circular saws are inspected for any visible damages or faults before use, such as frayed cords, loose parts, or dull blades. - Use of GFCI: Ensure that all electrical outlets and extension cords used with the circular saw are equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock due to a short circuit or ground fault. - Training and supervision: Confirm that only trained and authorised personnel are allowed to operate the circular saw, and ensure proper supervision is present during each work step.	2M	

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			- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Operators must wear appropriate PPE, including safety glasses, gloves, ear protection, and high-visibility clothing to minimise the risks of cuts, lacerations, and other injuries during the setup process. - Blade guard utilisation: Make sure to use the blade guard provided by the manufacturer to cover the sharp edges of the blade when not in use, effectively reducing the risk of accidental cuts and lacerations. - Safe work area: Establish and maintain a clean and organised work area, free from unnecessary clutter, debris, and tripping hazards, ensuring optimal conditions for using a circular saw. - Secure workpiece: Prioritise securing the material being cut in place using clamps or other appropriate tools, eliminating the possibility of unexpected movement while operating the saw. - Tool handling: Encourage operators to always carry the circular saw with the blade facing away from their body and unplugged when transported between locations. - Correct blade selection: Confirm that the appropriate blade type is installed for the specific material being cut, ensuring that it's sharp, clean, undamaged, and properly aligned. - Tool maintenance: Implement a regular maintenance schedule for the circular saw, including checking for blade sharpness and tension, proper alignment, and overall functionality, minimising any potential hazards. - Power isolation: Ensure the circular saw is disconnected from the power source before changing blades or performing any maintenance tasks to reduce the risk of electric shock. - Emergency procedures: Establish and ensure that all operators are familiar with the proper emergency procedures in case of an incident, including first aid provisions and immediate reporting of any injuries or unsafe conditions.		
3. Inspecting and Fitting Blade	Injury due to unsuitable blade, Blade breakage	3H	- Regularly inspect the circular saw blade for any visible damages or abnormalities, such as bent teeth or excessive wear, prior to installation. - Ensure that the power source is disconnected while changing and fitting a new blade, to prevent accidental startup and injury. - Ensure that the blade being used is appropriate for the material being cut and suitable for the specific saw model, according to the manufacturer's guidelines. - Verify that the blade is sharp and free of any deformation or dullness, which can cause additional strain on both the operator and the saw motor, ultimately leading to potential blade breakage. - Verify that proper guards and safety features are in place and functioning correctly before installing the blade.	1L	

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			- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, eye protection, and ear protection, when handling and fitting blades to minimise the risk of injury in case an accident does occur. - Ensure the blade is properly fitted and securely fastened according to the manufacturer's instructions, preventing any potential wobbling or loosening during operation. - Double-check the blade's direction and orientation, ensuring it aligns with the intended cutting motion to prevent binding, kickback, or breakage. - Conduct a brief, low-speed test run of the circular saw with the new blade, observing its performance and stability to ensure safe operation before proceeding with the task at hand. - Encourage a buddy system for blade inspection and fitting, where co-workers can check each other's work, promoting communication and reducing the risk of mistakes that could result in injury due to unsuitable or improperly installed blade.		
4. Cable Management	Trip hazard, Awkward body postures	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
5. Adjustments and Alignments	Contact with moving part[redacted]gned workpiece	3H	[redacted]	2M	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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			[redacted]		
6. Starting Circular Saw	Noise exposure, Flying debris	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
7. Cutting Workpiece	Kickback, Dust inh[redacted]	[redacted]H	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
8. Changing Cutting Direction	Loose workpiece, Incorre[redacted] direction	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
9. Stopping the Blade	Mistakenly pressing control [redacted] malfunction	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
10. Switching off and Unplugging	Accidental restart, Electrical hazard	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
11. Clearing Debris	Dust inhalation, Projectiles propelled by cleaning tools	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
12. Maintenance and Storage	Fire hazard from buildup on machinery, Equipment damage from improper storage	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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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	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 changed. 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 SWM	☐	☐	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) columns completed.	☐	☐	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effecti[illegible]tions.	☐	☐	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the im[illegible]of cont[illegible]measures.	☐	☐	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Wor[illegible]Electrical Work, W[illegible]t Heights etc.	☐	☐	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be us[illegible].	☐	☐	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed ar[illegible]noted on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training[illegible]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**	