

Food Premises | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Food Premises

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, 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

SIGNATURE

DATE

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as 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

<input type="checkbox"/> involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos.	<input type="checkbox"/> involves tilt-up or precast concrete.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near a confined space.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	<input type="checkbox"/> involves diving work.

ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

<input type="checkbox"/> Forklift	<input type="checkbox"/> Crane/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoist/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavator	<input type="checkbox"/> Backhoe/Loader	<input type="checkbox"/> Boom Lift	<input type="checkbox"/> EWP	<input type="checkbox"/> Genie Lift
<input type="checkbox"/> Trencher	<input type="checkbox"/> Drilling Rig	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks	<input type="checkbox"/> Formwork	<input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat	<input type="checkbox"/> Flammable Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Dozer
<input type="checkbox"/> High Voltage	<input type="checkbox"/> Mulcher	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilt-up Panels	<input type="checkbox"/> Roller	<input type="checkbox"/> Scissor Lift	<input type="checkbox"/> Tractor	<input type="checkbox"/> 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. PPE

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
											
<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"/>

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 and trips, Cuts from knives	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement a thorough cleaning and maintenance schedule for floors, ensuring that potential slip hazards such as spills or debris are addressed promptly. - Provide appropriate non-slip footwear for workers, ensuring proper fit and encouraging regular inspection for wear and tear. - Install sufficient lighting in all areas of the food premises to improve visibility and reduce the risk of slips and trips. - Clearly mark any changes in floor levels or unexpected steps with high-visibility tape or paint to draw attention to potential trip hazards. - Rearrange work areas and storage areas to minimise clutter and ensure clear walkways, reducing chances of tripping over obstacles. - Provide adequate training for staff on safe knife handling techniques, including how to properly grip, carry, and store knives. - Allocate specific cutting stations, away from high traffic areas, where cutting tasks can be carried out safely without distractions. - Ensure knives are properly sharpened, as dull knives require more force to use and can increase the likelihood of slipping and causing injury. - Utilise appropriate cutting boards with non-slip surfaces and ensure they are securely anchored while in use. - Establish an organised system for storing knives when not in use, such as a magnetic knife holder or designated drawer, preventing improper storage that could lead to accidental injuries. - Encourage proper communication among team members to avoid collisions or accidents caused by workers being unaware of each other's movements. - Offer ongoing training sessions and regular reminders for employees regarding workplace safety policies and best practices, reinforcing habits that can minimise risks associated with slips, trips, and cuts. - Conduct periodic risk assessments of the food premises to identify any new potential hazards or necessary improvements to existing control measures. - Foster a positive safety culture within the workplace by encouraging open communication and timely reporting of any incidents, near-misses, or hazardous conditions, allowing for prompt addressal and continuous improvement in overall safety. 	1L	
2. Cooking	Burns from hot surfaces, Fire hazards	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement proper staff training and supervision to ensure that all workers are aware of the potential hazards, understand how to handle equipment correctly, and adhere to safe cooking procedures. - Ensure that kitchen staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as oven mitts, closed-toe shoes, and heat-resistant aprons to protect them from burns while handling hot surfaces and equipment. 	2M	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilise well-maintained equipment with safety features such as non-slip feet, temperature controls, and cool-touch handles to minimise accidents in the kitchen. - Regularly inspect and maintain all cooking appliances to ensure they are functioning correctly and safely, and schedule routine maintenance checks by licensed professionals. - Keep workspaces and countertops free of clutter and unnecessary items to prevent accidental burns when reaching for hot utensils or equipment. - Establish a system for clearly marking hot surfaces and communicating this information to all staff to reduce the risk of burns through inadvertent contact. - Enforce a 'clean as you go' policy and promptly clean up any spills or grease on the floor to prevent slips and falls, which may result in contact with hot surfaces. - Install firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire blankets strategically around the kitchen and regularly check their condition, ensuring they remain easily accessible and functional. - Develop and implement emergency fire response plans including regular fire drills and evacuation protocols, ensuring all staff members are familiar with these procedures. - Encourage staff to immediately report any potential fire hazards, such as frayed electrical cords or gas leaks, and address these issues promptly and effectively. - Practice good housekeeping and always keep flammable materials, such as paper products, packaging, or tea towels, away from direct heat sources to minimise fire risks. - Monitor overall workplace temperature and ensure adequate ventilation throughout the kitchen to reduce excessive heat buildup, helping to mitigate the risk of fires and promoting a comfortable working environment. 		
3. Cleaning	Chemical exposure, Wet floors	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proper storage of chemicals: Ensure that cleaning chemicals are stored in clearly labelled and sealed containers, away from food preparation areas and out of reach of children or unauthorised personnel. - Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): Provide workers with suitable PPE such as gloves, safety glasses, and aprons when handling and using cleaning chemicals. - Training on handling chemicals: Ensure that all workers are trained on the correct methods of handling, storing, and disposing of potentially hazardous cleaning chemicals. - Adequate ventilation: Maintain proper ventilation in the cleaning area to reduce the risk of chemical fumes causing respiratory issues or discomfort for staff. - Spill response plan: Have a designated spill response procedure in place to manage any accidental spills of cleaning chemicals immediately and effectively. 	1L	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slip-resistant flooring: Install slip-resistant flooring in cleaning areas to minimise the risk of falls due to wet floors. - Signage: Display clear signage indicating the presence of wet floors during and after cleaning activities to alert staff and patrons. - Regular maintenance checks: Conduct regular inspection and maintenance of cleaning equipment to ensure it is in good working order, reducing the risk of accidents and exposure to chemicals. - Use of safer alternatives: Where possible, replace hazardous cleaning chemicals with more environmentally friendly and non-toxic alternatives. - Proper disposal of chemicals and waste materials: Dispose of used cleaning chemicals and materials according to local regulations and guidelines to prevent harm to the environment or public health. - Scheduled cleaning times: Plan cleaning activities during less busy hours of operation to minimise the risks associated with wet floors and the use of chemicals around staff and patrons. - Anti-slip mats: Use anti-slip mats in high-traffic areas, particularly where there may be wet floors due to cleaning activities, to further reduce the risk of slips and falls. - Emergency eyewash stations: Ensure that emergency eyewash stations are easily accessible and functional in case of accidental exposure to harmful chemicals during cleaning activities. 		
4. Dishwashing	Scalds from hot water, Glass breakage	2M	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	1L	

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5. Food Storage	Contamination, Inadequate temperature control	3H		2M	

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		
6. Waste Disposal	Sprains and strains, Pests	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L	

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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7. Delivery	Manual handling injuries, Vehicle accidents	2M		1L	

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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
			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		
8. Machine Operation	Machinery entanglement, Caught in moving parts	3H	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	2M	

SAMPLE

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		
10. Maintenance	Electrical hazards, Unscheduled downtime	2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L	

SAMPLE



SAMPLE

[illegible]

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SAMPLE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

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

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	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 needed. 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Names and signatures of all relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) columns completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed are noted on the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training, skills required to perform the work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lists any required permits or licenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY		DATE REVIEWED	
SIGNATURE		DATE COMPLETED	