Skid Steer Loader | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Skid Steer Loader

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:	

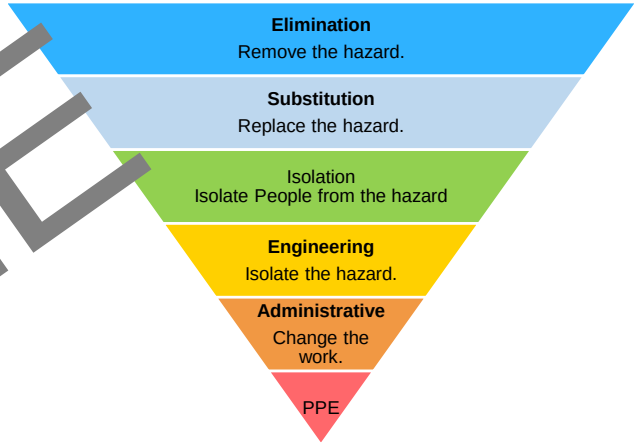
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT	
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-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
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 ef 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	Poor visibility, Slips and trips	2M	- Thoroughly inspect the workplace area before starting work to identify any potential obstacles or hazards that could obstruct the Skid Steer Loader operator's view. - Ensure the operator is well-trained and competent in operating Skid Steer Loaders, including proper communication techniques with spotters or traffic controllers. - Use high-visibility clothing, flashing lights, and warning signs to alert pedestrians and other workers of the presence and movement of the Skid Steer Loader. - Designate clear walkways for pedestrians and separate them from the Skid Steer Loader's working area to minimize the risk of slips and trips caused by uneven surfaces. - Implement a regular cleaning schedule to remove debris, spills, and other potential tripping hazards around the work area. - Keep windows and mirrors clean to improve visibility for the Skid Steer Loader operator and make sure all lights are functional to illuminate the work area effectively. - Establish an efficient communication system between ground personnel and the Skid Steer Loader operator, using radios, hand signals, or other agreed-upon methods. - Reduce or eliminate blind spots by positioning spotters strategically within the work zone and equipping the Skid Steer Loader with cameras and sensors if possible. - Limit the speed at which the Skid Steer Loader operates during high pedestrian traffic times or poor visibility to ensure the safety of workers. - Regularly maintain and check the functionality of safety features on the Skid Steer Loader, such as brakes and stability systems, to minimise the risk of accidents due to equipment failure. - Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all workers, including non-slip footwear and hard hats, to mitigate the risk of injury in case of a slip or trip incident. - Hold daily toolbox talks and safety briefings to reinforce safe operating procedures and provide updates regarding any identified hazards or ongoing concerns in the work environment.	1L	
2. Pre-Operation Checks	Faulty equipment, Operator error	3H	- Conduct a visual inspection of the Skid Steer Loader, checking for any visible damage or defects that may impact its safe operation. - Ensure that operators have been adequately trained and possess valid certification for operating Skid Steer Loaders in the workplace. - Review operator manuals for specific pre-operation checks recommended by the equipment manufacturer, and integrate these checks into daily routine inspections.	1L	

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			- Confirm that all mechanical components of the Skid Steer Loader are functioning properly, including the braking system, steering, power source (e.g., engine, battery), and hydraulic system. - Inspect safety devices and warning signals, such as emergency stop buttons, backup alarms, and horns, to ensure they are operational and clearly visible. - Check the condition and inflation of tires to ensure adequate traction and stability while operating the Skid Steer Loader. - Examine the attachment mechanism for correct functionality, ensuring that attachments can be securely fastened and adjusted as needed. - Implement a lockout procedure to prevent unauthorised access or use of the Skid Steer Loader during maintenance and repair tasks. - Document pre-operation check results in a logbook or electronic system, maintaining records of past inspections for future reference and potential incident investigations. - Encourage open communication between operators and management regarding any observed hazards or concerns, fostering a safety-conscious work environment. - Provide training on how to recognise and appropriately respond to common fault indicators displayed by the Skid Steer Loader's monitoring systems. - Regularly maintain and service the Skid Steer Loader according to the manufacturer's guidelines or Australian Standard AS 2865-2009 Safe Working at Heights. - Establish an operator buddy system where experienced operators can observe and mentor less experienced operators, reinforcing appropriate procedures and safe practices. - Ensure all personal protective equipment (PPE) is inspected regularly for signs of wear, and is appropriately sized and available to operators, such as safety glasses, gloves, and high-visibility vests.		
3. Loading Materials	Overloading, Falling materials	3H	- Ensure operators have the appropriate training and certification to handle skid steer loaders before allowing them to perform any loading activities. - Follow the manufacturer's guidance on maximum load capacity for the specific skid steer loader model being used, strictly adhering to weight limitations to prevent overloading. - Implement a pre-load inspection routine to check for any potential issues, such as loose or broken parts, in the skid steer loader that could impact the safety of loading materials. - Familiarise operators with the proper methods for stabilising the skid steer loader during loading procedures, including using the right positioning and maintaining an even distribution of weight.	2M	

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			- Clearly communicate all loading plans and processes with all team members involved, making sure everyone is informed about the order of operations and potential hazards associated with the loading process. - Require the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all workers in proximity of the loading area, including hard hats, safety glasses, and high-visibility vests. - Establish a designated exclusion zone around the skid steer loader's working area to minimise the risk of accidents involving falling materials, only allowing authorised personnel access. - Regularly inspect and maintain attachments, such as forks and buckets, to ensure they are functioning properly and securely fastened, minimising the risk of falling materials during loading procedures. - Develop an emergency response plan to address potential incidents of overloading or falling materials, including guidelines for evacuating the area, reporting the incident and handling any resulting injuries. - Enforce a solid communication protocol between the skid steer loader operator and other site workers, using standardised hand signals or two-way radios to coordinate activities and prevent misunderstandings. - Schedule regular breaks for skid steer loader operators to reduce the risks associated with fatigue-related incidents and maintain a high level of vigilance during the loading process. - Keep the work area clean and organised to reduce the risk of tripping hazards or other obstacles that might cause instability during loading operations. -Create a system for regularly reviewing and updating the Skid Steer Loader Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) to ensure all control measures remain relevant and effective in mitigating risks associated with loading materials.		
4. Transporting Load	Uneven terrain, Pedestrians	3H	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
5. Unloading Materials	Tip over, Struck by falling material	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
6. Maneuvering in tight spaces	Obstructed vision, Striking objects	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
7. Parking and Shutting down	Roll away, Unintended movement	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
8. Refueling the Loader	Fire, Spill damages	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
9. Attachment Swap	Pinching hazards, Incorrect installation	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
10. Regular Maintenance	Mechanical failure, Electrical hazard	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
11. Emergency Response	Inadequate training, Panic-induced injuries	2[redacted]	[redacted]	1L	
12. Site Clean-up	Uneven surface, Debris	2M		1L	

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			[redacted]		

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

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

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

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

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws
Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice
Legislation ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation
Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/codes-of-practice

South Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
Legislation for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation
Codes of Practice for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania
Work Health and Safety Act 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

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

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

Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations
Codes of Practice VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022
Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation
Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links
Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation
Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

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

SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

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

Worker Name	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 se tions.	☐	☐	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the im ementa of cont measures.	☐	☐	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Wor Electrical Work, W at Heights etc.	☐	☐	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be us d.	☐	☐	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed ar noted on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training 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**	