Tailgate Loader | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Tailgate 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:	

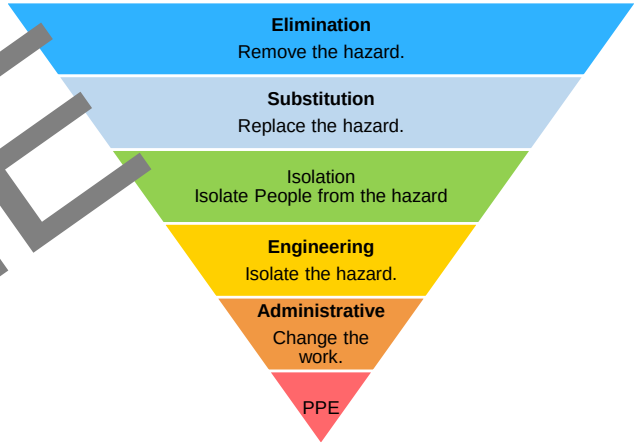
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT	
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
☐ involves demolition 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 work area conditions, Inadequate training	2M	- Regularly inspect the work area to identify any potential hazards, such as uneven surfaces or congested spaces. - Implement a clear and systematic housekeeping programme to maintain cleanliness of the work area and prevent accidents caused by clutter or debris. - Ensure adequate lighting is provided in the work areas so workers can clearly see any potential hazards and carry out their tasks without difficulty. - Provide proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to all employees, including high-visibility clothing, safety footwear, and gloves, as required. - Clearly mark hazardous areas, such as loading zones, to make it easy for workers to identify potential dangers. - Establish and enforce barriers or exclusion zones around the tailgate loader to keep unauthorised personnel and other workers at a safe distance during operation. - Offer comprehensive training and orientation programs covering the use of tailgate loaders, safety procedures, and hazard identification for all workers who are expected to operate or work near the equipment. - Develop a mentoring system that pairs experienced employees with new hires for on-the-job guidance and support. - Conduct routine equipment inspections to ensure that all components of the tailgate loader are in good working order and that any necessary repairs or maintenance are conducted promptly. - Create an accessible emergency response plan that includes procedures for incidents, such as injuries and accidents, fires, or equipment malfunctions. - Encourage open communication among workers, encouraging them to report any potential hazards or concerns promptly so they can be addressed before an incident occurs. - Maintain accurate records of employee training, certifications, and competencies to ensure all workers maintain the required skills and knowledge to safely carry out their tasks. - Regularly assess the effectiveness of control measures through monitoring and review, and revise as necessary to improve workplace health and safety performance. - Promote a strong safety culture in the organisation, with management taking the lead in prioritising workplace health and safety and setting a positive example for employees to follow.	1L	
2. Equipment inspection	Damaged tailgate, Inoperable safety features	3H	- Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the tailgate loader to check for any signs of damage, cracks, bending, or other deformations that may compromise its structural integrity.	1L	

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			- Ensure that all moving parts of the tailgate loader are well-lubricated to prevent jams or malfunctions during operation. - Test the proper functioning of safety features such as sensors, limit switches, emergency stop buttons, and warning lights before commencing work. - Verify that hydraulic hoses are in good condition, free of leaks or damage, and securely fastened to maintain safe pressure levels. - Provide regular maintenance and servicing of the tailgate loader according to the manufacturer's recommendations to ensure optimal performance and safety. - Implement a systematic equipment inspection routine, including pre- and post-work checks, to identify and address potential hazards in a timely manner. - Clearly mark and label any damaged or inoperable safety features and keep records of them until they are repaired or replaced. - Keep an inventory of spare parts on hand to facilitate quick repairs and replacements of defective components. - Assign only trained, competent personnel to operate and inspect the tailgate loader, ensuring they are familiar with the safety features and correct working procedures. - Encourage open communication among workers, encouraging them to report any concerns or defects relating to the tailgate loader's safety features or performance. - Establish clear guidelines for responding to incidents involving a malfunctioning or damaged tailgate loader, outlining emergency procedures, incident reporting, and follow-up actions. - Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers involved in the inspection, operation, and maintenance of the tailgate loader, including safety gloves, safety glasses, and high visibility vests. - Put in place physical barriers, cones, or caution tape to protect workers and bystanders from the immediate vicinity of the tailgate loader when it is in use, especially if there are known defects. - Periodically review and update the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for equipment inspection and operation, incorporating improvements in industry best practices, manufacturer updates, and feedback from workers in the field.		
3. Loading cargo	Falling cargo, Inappropriate lifting techniques	3H	- Provide comprehensive training to all staff members on proper lifting techniques and safe operation of the tailgate loader to prevent potential injuries and accidents. - Implement strict pre-loading inspections to ensure cargo is secured correctly, weight is evenly distributed, and no items are at risk of falling during the loading process. - Display clear signage around the loading area to warn bystanders of potential hazards such as falling objects or moving equipment.	1L	

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			- Equip workers with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including high-visibility vests, hard hats, and steel-toed boots, to minimise injury risks from falling cargo. - Establish a designated exclusion zone around the tailgate loader during operation to restrict access to authorised personnel only and prevent potential accidents involving unaware bystanders. - Develop and enforce a clear communication protocol between the loader operator and ground crew to ensure smooth coordination and successful completion of the loading process. - Conduct regular hazard assessments and maintenance checks on the tailgate loader equipment to promptly identify and address any mechanical issues or defects that could compromise safety. - Encourage a team-based approach to handling large or heavy items that may be difficult for individual handlers to manage, reducing the likelihood of improper lifting techniques leading to injury. - Utilise mechanical aids, such as dollies, trolleys, or forklifts, to assist in safe handling and transportation of heavy or unwieldy cargo when necessary. - Foster a strong safety culture within the workplace, encouraging all staff members to report near misses, incidents, or observed hazards promptly, allowing for proactive measures to mitigate risks. - Regularly review and update the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for tailgate loader operations to ensure it reflects current best practices and effectively addresses the evolving hazards associated with this type of work.		
4. Securing cargo	Unsecured cargo, Manual handling strains	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
5. Vehicle positioning	Traffic hazards, Proximity to people or structures	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
6. Tailgate operation	Hydraulic failure, Mechanical issues	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
7. Unloading cargo	Falling cargo, Inappropriate lifting techniques	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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

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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
			[redacted]		
8. Maintenance & repair	Lack of lockout/tagout, Injured during repair	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
9. Housekeeping	Slip and trip hazards - cluttered work area	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
10. People & communication	Miscommunication between workers, Lack of safety signage	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
11. Environmental conditions	Extreme weather, [redacted]even terrain	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
12. Emergency procedures	Inadequate first aid equipment, Untrained in emergency response	2M	[redacted]	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**	