

Topic /

Identify, assess and control hazards

Risk management involves thinking about what could happen if someone is exposed to a hazard and how likely it is to happen. Hazards are things and situations that could harm a person.

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You must manage [WHS \(/glossary#whs\)](#) [risks \(/glossary#risks\)](#) if you are:

- a person conducting a business or undertaking ([PCBU \(/glossary#pcbu\)](#))
- a designer, manufacturer, importer, supplier or installer of plant, substance, or structure
- an officer, such as a company director.

You can follow a step-by-step process to manage risks. This involves identifying hazards, assessing risks, controlling risks, and reviewing control measures.

[Risk \(/glossary#risk\)](#) management helps you respond to change and improve your business. Eliminating and controlling risks in your workplace can:

- prevent workplace injuries and illnesses
- improve the health, wellbeing, and capacity of your workers
- improve quality and productivity of work.

Supporting information

- [Model Code of Practice: How to manage work health and safety risks \(/doc/model-codes-practice/model-code-practice-how-manage-work-health-and-safety-risks\)](/doc/model-codes-practice/model-code-practice-how-manage-work-health-and-safety-risks)
- [Good work design \(/safety-topic/managing-health-and-safety/good-work-design\)](/safety-topic/managing-health-and-safety/good-work-design)
- [Safe design \(/safety-topic/managing-health-and-safety/safe-design\)](/safety-topic/managing-health-and-safety/safe-design)

WHS duties

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Managing risks

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When to use risk management

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Further Advice

SWA is not a regulator and cannot advise you about WHS issues in the workplace. If you need help please contact your state or territory work health and safety authority (</node/3657>).

We develop national policy relating to WHS and workers' compensation.

Who we are (</about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do>)

The Commonwealth, states and territories regulate and enforce WHS laws.

Find your Regulator (</node/3657>)

About us

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Harradine report (</access-information/harradine-report>)

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Acknowledgement of country

Safe Work Australia acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

[Read about our RAP \(/safe-work-australia-reflect-reconciliation-action-plan-2020-2021\)](#)



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