

## RISK LEVEL CALCULATOR (1)

The risk associated with a hazard is related to the severity of a single incident, and the frequency and duration of exposure to the hazard. In many instances, other hazards present may increase the risk of an individual hazard.

**STEP 1:** Consider how likely a risk is encountered, and what might happen.

**STEP 2:** Use the risk level calculator to determine the likely risk level (outcome) to persons who may be exposed to the hazards.

**STEP 3:** Identify and develop effective control measures. (Consult the hierarchy of risk control measures when carrying out this step).

| LEVEL OF CONSEQUENCES    | LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF EVENT OCCURRING<br><i>What is the likely outcome of an exposure to the risk?</i>  | RISK LEVEL (OUTCOME) |        |          |          |      |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------|----------|----------|------|
|                          |  | Almost certain       | Likely | Possible | Unlikely | Rare |
| <b>Catastrophic (C)</b>  | Fatality or permanent disability; toxic release of chemicals, long-term environmental impact; loss of facilities; very high \$ loss                  | E                    | E      | E        | E        | H    |
| <b>High (H)</b>          | Long-term illness or serious injury; serious medium-term environmental effects; major property damage; loss of production; high \$ loss              | E                    | E      | E        | H        | M    |
| <b>Moderate (M)</b>      | Medical treatment requiring up to several days off work; spillage contained with outside assistance; significant property damage; med – high \$ loss | E                    | H      | M        | M        | L    |
| <b>Low (L)</b>           | Minor injury requiring First-Aid; spillage contained on site; moderate property damage; low-med. \$ loss   | H                    | H      | M        | M        | L    |
| <b>Insignificant (I)</b> | No injuries; minor property or environmental damage; very low \$ loss  | H                    | M      | L        | L        | L    |

| LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT OCCURRING<br><i>How likely is it that an exposure will occur?</i> |   | DETERMINATION OF RISK CONTROL ACTIONS |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
|   |   | RISK LEVEL (OUTCOME)<br>(from matrix) | ACTION REQUIRED<br>(refer to the hierarchy of risk controls) |
| <b>Almost certain</b>   | Event is expected to occur in most circumstances  |                                       |  |
| <b>Likely</b>   | Event will probably occur in most circumstances   | <b>E</b> (EXTREME)                    | <b>URGENT</b> - Immediate action required to control risk.   |
| <b>Possible</b>   | Event might occur at some time                    | <b>H</b> (HIGH)                       | Highest management decision required urgently.               |
| <b>Unlikely</b>   | Event could occur at some time                    | <b>M</b> (MEDIUM)                     | Follow management instructions regarding risk.               |
| <b>Rare</b>   | Event may occur only in exceptional circumstances | <b>L</b> (LOW)                        | These risks may not require immediate attention - monitor.   |

| LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT OCCURRING – Consider the following:   | LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF EVENT OCCURRING – Consider the following:   | HIERARCHY OF RISK CONTROLS   |
|---|--|--|
| How often is the task/activity performed?<br>How many people are exposed to the hazard?<br>How long is the exposure?<br>Are engineering controls preventing exposure at present?<br>Does workplace layout and condition affect exposure?<br>Are abnormal conditions which may result in a greater exposure reasonably foreseeable?<br>What are the results of any biological or atmospheric monitoring?<br>Do workers have appropriate skills and knowledge to perform tasks?<br>Do current work practices expose workers to a hazard?<br>Are there other contributing factors? | What are the consequences in the short term?<br>What are the consequences in the long term?<br>What is the history of injuries related to exposure to the hazard?<br>How close are workers to the hazard?<br>What is the energy level of the hazard (i.e., weight, voltage, volume, height above ground, temperature, amplitude, concentration, aggressive state)?<br>If a substance is hazardous, what are the health effects associated with –<br>Inhaling it<br>Ingestion (swallowing) it<br>Skin contact, or<br>Eye contact? | 1. <b>Eliminate</b> the risk.<br>If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the risk, minimise it by (in descending order) –<br>2. <b>Substitution</b><br>3. <b>Isolation</b><br>4. <b>Engineering Means</b><br>5. <b>Administrative Controls</b><br>6. <b>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</b> |

## RISK LEVEL CALCULATOR (2)

The risk associated with a hazard is related to the severity of a single incident, and the frequency and duration of exposure to the hazard. In many instances, other hazards present may increase the risk of an individual hazard.

**STEP 1:** Consider how likely a risk is encountered, and what might happen.

**STEP 2:** Use the risk level calculator to determine the likely risk level (outcome) to persons who may be exposed to the hazards.

**STEP 3:** Identify and develop effective control measures. (Consult the hierarchy of risk control measures when carrying out this step).

| LEVEL OF CONSEQUENCES                            | CONSEQUENCES OF EVENT OCCURRING<br><i>What is the likely outcome of an exposure to the risk?</i>  | LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT OCCURRING |          |          |
|--|---|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
|  |   | Likely                        | Possible | Unlikely |
| <b>High</b><br><b>(High level of harm)</b>       | Potential death; permanent disability; major structural failure/damage.<br>Off-site environmental discharge/release not contained.<br>Significant long-term environmental harm.                         | 1                             | 1        | 2        |
| <b>Medium</b><br><b>(Moderate level of harm)</b> | Potential temporary disability; minor structural failure/damage.<br>On-site environmental discharge/release contained.<br>Minor remediation required; short-term environmental harm.                    | 1                             | 2        | 3        |
| <b>Low</b><br><b>(Low level of harm)</b>         | Incident that has the potential to cause persons to require first aid.<br>On-site environmental discharge/release immediately contained.<br>Minor level clean up with no short-term environmental harm. | 2                             | 3        | 3        |

| LIKELIHOOD<br><i>How likely is it that an exposure will occur?</i> |   | RISK LEVEL        |   |
|--|---|-------------------|---|
|  |   | Class/ranking     | Description/requirements  |
| <b>Likely</b>  | Could happen frequently.                    | <b>1 (High)</b>   | Will require detailed pre-planning. Actions will be recorded on SWMS. |
| <b>Possible</b>  | Could happen occasionally.                  | <b>2 (Medium)</b> | Will require operational planning; Actions will be recorded on SWMS.  |
| <b>Unlikely</b>  | May occur only in exceptional circumstances | <b>3 (Low)</b>    | Will require localised control measures.                              |

| LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT OCCURRING – Consider the following:   | LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF EVENT OCCURRING – Consider the following:   | HIERARCHY OF RISK CONTROLS  |
|---|--|---|
| How often is the task/activity performed?<br>How many people are exposed to the hazard?<br>How long is the exposure?<br>Are engineering controls preventing exposure at present?<br>Does workplace layout and condition affect exposure?<br>Are abnormal conditions which may result in a greater exposure reasonably foreseeable?<br>What are the results of any biological or atmospheric monitoring?<br>Do workers have appropriate skills and knowledge to perform tasks?<br>Do current work practices expose workers to a hazard?<br>Are there other contributing factors? | What are the consequences in the short term?<br>What are the consequences in the long term?<br>What is the history of injuries related to exposure to the hazard?<br>How close are workers to the hazard?<br>What is the energy level of the hazard (i.e., weight, voltage, volume, height above ground, temperature, amplitude, concentration, aggressive state)?<br>If a substance is hazardous, what are the health effects associated with –<br>Inhaling it<br>Ingestion (swallowing) it<br>Skin contact, or<br>Eye contact? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Eliminate</b> the risk.<br/>If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the risk, minimise it by (in descending order) –</li> <li>2. <b>Substitution</b></li> <li>3. <b>Isolation</b></li> <li>4. <b>Engineering Means</b></li> <li>5. <b>Administrative Controls</b></li> <li>6. <b>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</b></li> </ol> |