

Assessing the risk

Risks should be evaluated before and after control measures are put in place.

The judgement about the severity rating of the hazard, with or without any control measures in place, should be entered on the Risk Assessment form as a number using the Severity Rating Guidance shown in Table 1 (below).

Outcome	Value
Delay only	1
Minor injury, minor damage	2
Lost time injury, illness, major damage	3
Major injury, disabling illness, major damage	4
Single fatality, or permanent total disability	5
Multiple fatalities	6

Table 1: Severity Rating Guidance

The second part of the risk evaluation is a judgement on the likelihood of the hazard actually causing harm. A number should be entered in the likelihood columns of the risk assessment form using the Likelihood Rating Guidance shown in table 2 (below).

Likelihood	Value
Very unlikely	1
Unlikely	2
May happen	3
Likely	4
Very likely	5
Certain or imminent	6

Table 2: Likelihood Rating Guidance

The next stage is to plot the severity number and the likelihood number on the Risk assessment Matrix (see table below). This process will produce a risk rating of HIGH, MEDIUM, or LOW.

Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk Assessment Matrix (Probability and Likelihood Scales)							
		Likelihood rating					
Severity Rating	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Very Unlikely	Unlikely	May happen	Likely	Very likely	Certain or imminent
1	Delay only	<p>The heatmap shows risk levels as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOW (Green): Severity 1 (Delay only) for Likelihood 1-3. MEDIUM (Yellow): Severity 2 (Minor injury, minor damage) for Likelihood 1-4; Severity 3 (Lost time injury, illness, major damage) for Likelihood 2-5. HIGH (Red): Severity 4 (Major injury, disabling illness, major damage) for Likelihood 3-6; Severity 5 (Single fatality, or permanent total disability) for Likelihood 4-6; Severity 6 (Multiple fatalities) for Likelihood 5-6. 					
2	Minor injury, minor damage						
3	Lost time injury, illness, major damage						
4	Major injury, disabling illness, major damage						
5	Single fatality, or permanent total disability						
6	Multiple fatalities						

Table 3: Risk assessment matrix.

3.3 Residual risk

The residual risk is the portion of risk remaining after control measures have been implemented. The following table gives suggested actions for the three different levels of residual risk:

Residual Risk	Action
Low Risk	No further improvements necessary provided control measures are in place and maintained. Continuous improvements should be sought during the review.
Medium Risk	Although risk is tolerable when control measures have been identified and implemented, further risk reduction measures are needed.
High Risk	Further Risk Reduction Measures MUST be undertaken.

Specific risk assessments

Specific risk assessments can be listed as a control measure in the general risk assessment form. They should be carried out where manual handling activities are involved (Refer to the Manual Handling Risk Assessment Procedure) or where the task based risk assessment does not cover the hazards associated with the task. Specific risk assessments may also be required where there is significant change to the work activity. Specific risk assessments should also be completed for pregnant workers, young persons, students on work experience etc.