

## Legislation

09.01.11

**Workplace Health and Safety Act 2007****Risk Management Plans >**

This information bulletin provides a guide in regard to risk management plans under the [Workplace Health and Safety Act 2007](#). Please refer to Section 58 of the Act and Regulations 39A, 39B and Schedule 5 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations for more detail.

**Risk management**

The primary goal of risk management is to eliminate or minimise workplace risk as far as is reasonably practicable. For information on *reasonably practicable* see NT WorkSafe information bulletin [09.01.14 Legislation – reasonably practicable](#).

When an employer formulates risk management measures, the following questions should be addressed in regard to each identified risk:

- An employer shall ensure that a worker's exposure to a hazard at a workplace is controlled to minimise the risk to the health and safety of the worker.
- Where there is a need to control a worker's exposure to a hazard, the control shall be achieved, as far as practicable, through the progressive application of one or more of the following measures:
  - > whether it is possible to eliminate the relevant source of risk entirely;
  - > whether the source of the risk can be isolated from workers;
  - > whether the source of the risk can be controlled by engineering means;
  - > whether the risk can be controlled by administrative means (such as the adoption of a different system of work, different working practices, or the introduction of warning systems);
  - > whether the risk can be avoided or reduced by the use of personal protective clothing or equipment.

**Hazardous activities**

Each activity specified in Schedule 5 of the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) is classified as a hazardous activity for which a risk management plan is required.

Note: Mining operations are also classified as a hazardous activity for which a risk management plan is required by regulation 152B.

These are:

- Excavation work requiring shoring under regulation 145
- Demolition of a building or structure using explosives
- Demolition of a building or structure of a height greater than 6 meters
- Removal of asbestos or a substance containing asbestos that is required to be performed by a person who is the holder of an asbestos removalists license.
- Work involving the use of suspended scaffolding
- Erection of a public stand constructed of scaffold components.

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## Risk management plans

An employer who proposes to undertake a hazardous activity must prepare a risk management plan and have it certified as adequate by a person with qualifications or credentials acceptable to NT WorkSafe. A risk management plan must comply with any requirements imposed by the regulations.

An employer must, before commencing a hazardous activity, lodge a copy of the relevant risk management plan with the NT WorkSafe.

Only one risk management plan covering mining operations is required.

### Content of risk management plan

Risk management plan for a hazardous activity:	
✓	Hazards involved in the activity are identified
✓	Risks resulting from the hazards and the seriousness of those risks are identified
✓	The risk of <i>high consequence / low probability</i> events are addressed
✓	Appropriate risk management measures are determined <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ to eliminate, as far as reasonably practicable, avoidable risks</li><li>✓ to minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, unavoidable risks</li></ul>
✓	Means by which the risk management measures will be implemented are specified
✓	Mechanism for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the risk management measures is determined
✓	Training which must be provided to a worker who may be exposed to a hazard is specified
✓	Any requirements for health surveillance of workers are specified
✓	The records particular to the risk management plan that must be kept are specified
✓	The qualifications or credentials of the person who prepared the risk management plan are specified
✓	The plan has been lodged with NT WorkSafe prior to commencing the hazardous activity.

### In addition to the requirements of regulation 39B, a risk management plan for a mining operation must:

- include a fitness to work program; and
- set out the management structure for the mining operation; and
- include an emergency plan.

An employer shall ensure that a measure applied under regulation 39 is properly used, maintained and supervised.

### Amendments to a Risk Management plans

A new risk management plan is not required each time the hazardous activity is undertaken however the risk management plan must be amended if:

- significant new risks are identified; or
- risk management measures are modified; or
- new risk management measures are identified.

## NT WorkSafe

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