



Working At Heights: Fall from heights

GENERIC HIERARCHY OF CONTROL SAMPLE

1st October 2021

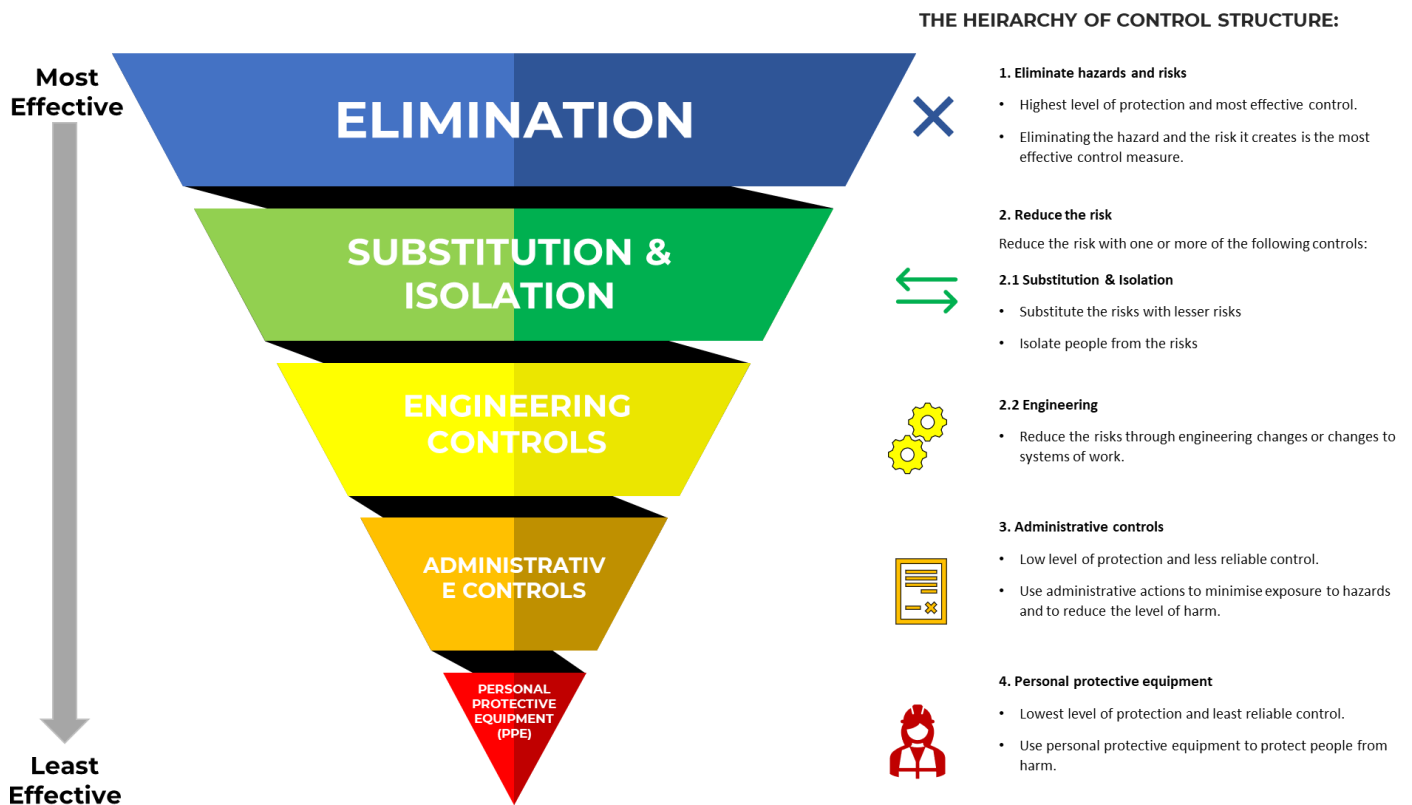


Hierarchy of Controls

The hierarchy of control is a system for controlling risks in the workplace. It is a step-by-step approach to eliminating or reducing risks and ranks risk controls from the highest level of protection and reliability through to the lowest and least reliable protection. Risks should be reduced to the lowest reasonably practicable level by taking preventative measures, in order of priority.

Eliminating the hazard and risk is the highest level of control in the hierarchy, followed by reducing the risk through substitution, isolation, and engineering controls, then reducing the risk through administrative controls. Reducing the risk with the use of protective personal equipment (PPE) is the lowest level of control.

The following element shows the structure of the hierarchy of control, from most effective control to least effective.



Consider various control options and effective elimination controls should always be the priority. If elimination is not reasonably practicable, minimise the risk in the circumstances. Reducing the risk may involve a single control measure or a combination of different controls that work together to provide the highest level of reasonably practicable protection.

As an employer you must consult your workers and their health and safety representatives (HSRs), if there are any, when deciding on risk controls.

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Hierarchy of Control Sample – Working at Heights

Elimination	Substitution	Isolation	Engineering Controls	Administrative Controls	PPE (Must be suitable for the task being performed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign should be considered to eliminate the need for working at height (WAH). Locate/move assets, plant, and equipment to a safe location so the work can be conducted where there is no risk of a fall. Do/undertake as much work as possible on the ground using extending/long-handled tools instead of a ladder. Lower object to the ground level before repairing it. Build structures at ground level and lift them into position when finished. Do/undertake the work from a solid construction. Ensure equipment that may require maintenance is placed close to the ground. Relocation of equipment requiring maintenance should be considered to eliminate the requirement for the operator to enter the danger zone. <p>Note: Working from height also means work on fragile surfaces, which may be enclosed, but still liable to cause a fall through them rather than off them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the control measure to undertake the work from a safe zone Removal of unsafe WAH equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a plant screen, barrier, edge protection, guard rail work platform (such as scaffolding or an elevated work platform) to prevent a fall while maintenance is being undertaken Barriers to restrict access A total restraint system to prevent Forklift safety cage/Platform Mobile Scaffolds Demarcation line marking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fall arrest systems to prevent a fall from occurring (note: training required) Ensure the workplace/site has suitable access and egress Catch platforms Soft Landing platforms Safety nets Approved WAH equipment 	<p>Using the permit to work system allows for the checking off of policies and standards.</p> <p>Policy/Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Systems of Work Health and Safety Induction Working at Height Standard Procurement of WAH equipment (what HSW considerations need to be looked at) Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) Contractor Management Working at Height (MAH) Contractor Site induction Emergency Plan <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and organisation (Managers to allocate adequate time and resources to complete the work safely) Correct/ /Approved MAH equipment is available Consider weather conditions (e.g., wind, fog) Proximity hazards (e.g., electrical) <p>Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage required as per Working at Height Standard Design specifications – facilities are procured or set up in line with design standards that control access to restrictive areas Prevention of actions that could cause damage Instructions on what to do if damage occurs Regular site inspections to ensure signage is effective and visible <p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on equipment use to understand capacity and constraints Access control Trained supervisors – equipment use and supervision Regular equipment reviews to ensure the correct equipment is used Identify equipment failure and what steps are required to rectify the failure <p>Proactive Monitoring & Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular site inspections to ensure signage is effective and visible Visual inspection programme – undertaken by the team before equipment is used Proactive equipment maintenance schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard hats Fall arrest harnesses/systems Work restraint systems Horizontal lifelines (e.g., lanyard, anchor, and hook) Utilising secondary systems as backup

IMPORTANT: All businesses should conduct a thorough risk assessment to ensure all risks and controls have been identified. This hierarchy of control document is deemed a generic guide and does not consider each business environment.

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