# RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)

Business name

Document: RAMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

## 1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Job** | Steel handrail and balustrade installation | **Start date** | 9 Nov 2026 |
| **Working hours** | 7:00 am to 3:30 pm | **Trade** | Welding and fabrication |

## 2. WORK INVOLVING PARTICULAR RISKS (CDM 2015 SCHEDULE 3)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Risk of burial under earthfalls, engulfment in swampland or falling from a height, made worse by the work, processes or site | | Work on wells, underground earthworks and tunnels |
| **YES** | Chemical or biological substances that are a particular danger, or that need health monitoring by law | | Divers with a system of air supply |
| | Ionising radiation needing controlled or supervised areas | | Work in caissons with a compressed air atmosphere |
| | Work near high voltage power lines | | Use of explosives |
| | Risk of drowning | | Assembling or dismantling heavy prefabricated components |

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT

| # | Activity / step | Hazards | Who might be harmed and how | Risk before | Controls | Risk after | Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Install temporary edge protection on open edges | Falling from height<br>Falling through a floor opening or void<br><br>Rules: Work at Height Regulations 2005 | Workers, People below, Visitors.<br>How: A worker falls from any height where a fall could cause injury, such as an edge, platform or opening. A worker steps into an open hole, stairwell, lift shaft or penetration and falls to the level below. | **Very high (20) Likely / Fatal** | 1.1 Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. [Eliminate]<br>1.2 Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. [Isolate]<br>1.3 Use a scaffold, mobile tower or MEWP instead of working off a ladder. [Control (engineering)]<br>1.4 Where edge protection is not practical, use a fall restraint or fall arrest system on a rated anchor point. [Control (engineering)]<br>1.5 Have a rescue plan so a worker hanging in a harness can be brought down within minutes. [Control (procedures)]<br>1.6 Wear a full body harness with a shock-absorbing lanyard, clipped on at all times when using fall arrest. [PPE]<br>1.7 Cover every hole and penetration with a fixed, secured cover marked "HOLE" or "DANGER". [Isolate]<br>1.8 Put guardrails with toe boards around stairwells, lift shafts, voids and open edges. [Isolate]<br>1.9 Install stairs early and fit temporary handrails as soon as they go in. [Control (engineering)]<br>1.10 Never remove a cover or guardrail without approval. Put it back straight away. [Control (procedures)] | **Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal** | Site supervisor |

| # | Activity / step | Hazards | Who might be harmed and how | Risk before | Controls | Risk after | Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1.11 Inspect covers and barriers daily and after other trades have been through. [Control (procedures)]<br>1.12 Keep lighting good enough to see openings, especially on lower floors and in the evening. [Control (procedures)]<br>1.13 Use a harness clipped to a rated anchor when working right next to an open void. [PPE] | | |
| 2 | Drill anchors with dust extraction | Silica dust from concrete, brick, stone and tiles<br>Loud noise<br><br>Rules: COSHH Regulations 2002; Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 | Workers, People nearby.<br>How: Cutting, grinding or drilling concrete, brick, stone, tiles or fibre cement makes fine silica dust that causes silicosis and lung cancer. Saws, grinders, jackhammers and machines cause permanent hearing loss and ringing in the ears over time. | **Very high (20) Likely / Fatal** | 2.1 Order materials cut to size, or use low-dust methods such as score and snap or a block splitter. [Reduce / substitute]<br>2.2 Cut outdoors or in a separate area, with other people well away and upwind. [Isolate]<br>2.3 Use water on the blade or on-tool dust extraction connected to an H-class vacuum. [Control (engineering)]<br>2.4 Clean up with a vacuum or wet methods. Never dry sweep or use compressed air. [Control (procedures)]<br>2.5 Do a COSHH assessment and keep exposure below the workplace exposure limit (0.1 mg/m3 respirable crystalline silica, 8 hours). [Control (procedures)]<br>2.6 Workers regularly exposed to silica dust get health surveillance (COSHH reg 11, HSE G404). [Control (procedures)]<br>2.7 Wear a fit-tested FFP3 mask. [PPE]<br>2.8 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials, low-noise machines and battery tools. [Reduce / substitute]<br>2.9 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate]<br>2.10 Keep tools maintained and use mufflers on compressors and generators. [Control (engineering)]<br>2.11 Limit time on noisy tools and rotate workers. [Control (procedures)]<br>2.12 If you have to shout to be heard by someone 2 metres away, the noise is probably 85 dB(A) or more: wear hearing protection. [Control (procedures)]<br>2.13 Assess noise. At 85 dB(A) or more, hearing protection is required and the zone must be marked. [Control (procedures)]<br>2.14 Wear earplugs or earmuffs rated for the noise. [PPE] | **Medium (6) Unlikely / Lost time injury** | Site supervisor |
| 3 | Weld on site under a hot work permit | Fire from hot works<br>Welding and cutting fumes<br>Eye injuries<br><br>Rules: CDM 2015 regs 29 to 31 (fire on construction sites). Occupied premises: Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 | Workers, Occupants, Public, People nearby.<br>How: Sparks and heat from welding, grinding or flame torches set fire to timber, insulation, rubbish or fuel nearby. Welding, cutting and brazing give off metal fumes and gases that damage the lungs and | **Very high (16) Likely / Major injury** | 3.1 Use cold work methods where you can, such as bolting, press fittings or cutting with a saw instead of a torch. [Eliminate]<br>3.2 Move anything that can burn at least 10 metres away, or cover it with fire blankets. [Isolate]<br>3.3 Use fire-resistant screens to stop sparks reaching people or gaps in walls and floors. [Control (engineering)]<br>3.4 Get a hot work permit before starting. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.5 Keep a charged fire extinguisher and fire blanket at the work spot. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.6 Remove paint, galvanising and coatings from the weld area first, or use a process that makes less fume. [Reduce / substitute] | **Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury** | Site supervisor |

| # | Activity / step | Hazards | Who might be harmed and how | Risk before | Controls | Risk after | Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (England and Wales), Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, Fire Safety Regulations (NI) 2010; COSHH Regulations 2002 | can cause cancer. | | 3.7 Use fume extraction (local exhaust ventilation) close to the weld. [Control (engineering)]<br>3.8 Weld outdoors or in a well-ventilated area, and keep your head out of the fume plume. [Control (engineering)]<br>3.9 Do a COSHH assessment. HSE expects fume extraction for all indoor welding, including mild steel. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.10 Never weld or cut in a confined space without testing the air and using forced ventilation. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.11 Wear a powered air respirator or fitted respirator when extraction is not enough. [PPE]<br>3.12 Use tool guards and screens to stop flying particles. [Control (engineering)]<br>3.13 Use dust extraction and water to keep dust out of the air. [Control (engineering)]<br>3.14 Keep others out of the area when cutting, grinding or chipping. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.15 Keep an eye wash station or eye wash bottles on site. [Control (procedures)]<br>3.16 Wear safety glasses at all times, goggles for dust and chemicals, and a face shield for grinding. [PPE] | | |
| 4 | Grind welds smooth with guards on | Angle grinder injuries<br>Eye injuries | Workers, People nearby.<br>How: The disc shatters, binds or kicks back, causing deep cuts to legs and hands or eye injuries. Flying chips, dust, chemicals or sparks get into the eye and cause damage or blindness. | **High (12) Possible / Major injury** | 4.1 Use a guarded saw or a different tool where you can. [Reduce / substitute]<br>4.2 Keep the guard on and use the side handle. Never remove the guard. [Control (engineering)]<br>4.3 Use the right disc for the job, rated for the grinder's speed. Check it for cracks first. [Control (procedures)]<br>4.4 Only trained people change discs, with the grinder unplugged or the battery out. [Control (procedures)]<br>4.5 Keep both hands on the grinder and let the disc stop before putting it down. [Control (procedures)]<br>4.6 Clamp the work and keep people out of the spark path. [Control (procedures)]<br>4.7 Wear a face shield over safety glasses, hearing protection, gloves and long sleeves. [PPE]<br>4.8 Eye injuries: see step 3 for the full controls [Control (procedures)] | **Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury** | Site supervisor |
| 5 | Fire watch and clean up | Fire and emergencies<br>Poor housekeeping and waste<br><br>Rules: CDM 2015 regs 29 to 31 (fire on construction sites). Occupied premises: Regulatory Reform (Fire | Workers, Occupants, Visitors.<br>How: A fire, injury or other emergency happens and workers cannot get out, raise the alarm or get first aid in time. Rubbish, offcuts and materials left lying | **High (10) Unlikely / Fatal** | 5.1 Provide fire extinguishers suited to the site, checked and easy to reach. [Control (engineering)]<br>5.2 Keep exits and escape routes clear and signed. [Control (engineering)]<br>5.3 Have a site emergency plan: alarm, exits, assembly point and emergency contacts. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.4 Keep a stocked first aid kit and at least one trained first aider on site. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.5 Know the site address and how emergency services get in. Call | **Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal** | Site supervisor |

| # | Activity / step | Hazards | Who might be harmed and how | Risk before | Controls | Risk after | Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Safety) Order 2005 (England and Wales), Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, Fire Safety Regulations (NI) 2010 | around cause trips, cuts and fires, and block exits. | | 999. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.6 Go through the emergency plan with every worker and visitor at induction. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.7 Keep flammable materials and rubbish away from exits and escape routes. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.8 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate]<br>5.9 Put skips and waste chutes close to the work. [Control (engineering)]<br>5.10 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.11 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.12 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Control (procedures)]<br>5.13 Use a registered waste carrier and keep waste transfer notes for at least 2 years. Keep hazardous waste such as asbestos separate, with consignment notes (special waste in Scotland). [Control (procedures)]<br>5.14 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE] | | |

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Very high. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control (eric-pd): Eliminate, Reduce / substitute, Isolate, Control (engineering), Control (procedures), PPE.

## 4. METHOD STATEMENT: SEQUENCE OF WORK

| Step | What we will do | How it is done safely |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Install temporary edge protection on open edges | Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. Use a scaffold, mobile tower or MEWP instead of working off a ladder. |
| 2 | Drill anchors with dust extraction | Order materials cut to size, or use low-dust methods such as score and snap or a block splitter. Cut outdoors or in a separate area, with other people well away and upwind. Use water on the blade or on-tool dust extraction connected to an H-class vacuum. |
| 3 | Weld on site under a hot work permit | Use cold work methods where you can, such as bolting, press fittings or cutting with a saw instead of a torch. Move anything that can burn at least 10 metres away, or cover it with fire blankets. Use fire-resistant screens to stop sparks reaching people or gaps in walls and floors. |
| 4 | Grind welds smooth with guards on | Use a guarded saw or a different tool where you can. Keep the guard on and use the side handle. Never remove the guard. Use the right disc for the job, rated for the grinder's speed. Check it for cracks first. |
| 5 | Fire watch and clean up | Provide fire extinguishers suited to the site, checked and easy to reach. Keep exits and escape routes clear and signed. Have a site emergency plan: alarm, exits, assembly point and emergency contacts. |

## 5. PPE AND PERMITS

| Required PPE | Permits and plans |
|---|---|
| Safety boots<br>Welding helmet<br>Welding gauntlets<br>Safety glasses<br>Ear defenders<br>Full body harness and lanyard<br>Half-mask respirator (P3 filters)<br>Face shield<br>Coveralls<br>Safety goggles<br>Cut-resistant gloves<br>Rigger gloves | Hot works permit (fire watch at least 60 minutes after) |

## 6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

| Plant / equipment | Licence or training needed | Inspection needed | Rego / ID | Last inspected | Certificate / report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Welding set | | Check leads, return clamp and holder before use; PUWER maintenance and inspection at intervals set by risk | | | |
| Angle grinder (disc cutter) | | User check before each use; formal visual inspection and PAT testing at intervals set by risk (110V on site) | | | |
| SDS drill | | User check before each use; formal visual inspection and PAT testing at intervals set by risk (110V on site) | | | |
| Hand tools | | | | | |

## 7. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

## 8. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Emergency number** | 999 | **First aid kit** | In the work vehicle |
| **Fire extinguisher** | In the work vehicle | **Alarm and evacuation** | Shout "Fire" or "Stop" and use the site alarm. Stop work, make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Do not go back in until the supervisor says it is safe. |
| **Reporting incidents** | Report reportable incidents to HSE under RIDDOR 2013 (hse.gov.uk/riddor). | | |

## 9. SITE ARRANGEMENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Welfare** | Toilets, drinking water, hand washing and a break area on site | **Security and access** | Work area fenced or kept locked when unattended. Tools and materials secured. Public kept out. |
| **Environmental and waste** | Waste goes in a skip or the van and is taken away by a registered waste carrier, with waste transfer notes kept (duty of care). Hazardous waste such as asbestos is kept separate and consigned correctly. Dust and noise kept to a minimum. No run-off into drains. | | |

## 10. MONITORING, REVIEW AND LEGAL BASIS

The supervisor checks the controls at the start of each shift and during the work. Stop work and review this RAMS if the work, the crew or the site conditions change, after any incident or near miss, or if the principal contractor asks.

Legal basis: Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Employers must assess the risks of their work and record the significant findings (required where you employ 5 or more people). On CDM projects, contractors give their RAMS to the principal contractor before starting, and brief the workers on it.

Keep this RAMS, every revision and the signed briefing register with the site file for the length of the job, and keep a copy in your records afterwards.

## 11. REVISION HISTORY

| Rev | Date | By | What changed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 Nov 2026 | | First issue |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## 12. APPROVAL AND BRIEFING REGISTER

| | Name | Signature | Date | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Prepared by** | | | | |
| **Approved by** | | | | |
| **Supervisor** | | | | |
| **Principal contractor review** | | | | Accepted for use: Yes / No |

By signing below, each person confirms this RAMS was explained to them in a site briefing, they understand it and will follow it, and they will stop work and tell the supervisor if anything changes.

| Name | Role / company | Tickets / licences | Inducted | Signature | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| Name | Role / company | Tickets / licences | Inducted | Signature | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |