SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

Business name

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

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Wall framing	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Carpentry

2. HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK COVERED BY THIS SWMS

	Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres		Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
	Work on a telecommunication tower		Work on or near energised electrical installations or services
	Demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing or related to its physical integrity		Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
	Likely to involve disturbing asbestos		Work involving tilt-up or precast concrete elements
	Structural alterations or repairs that require temporary support to prevent collapse		Work on, in or next to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians
	Work in or near a confined space		Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant
	Work in or near a shaft or trench with an excavated depth greater than 1.5 metres		Work in an area with artificial extremes of temperature
	Work in or near a tunnel		Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning
	Use of explosives		Diving work
	Work on or near pressurised gas distribution mains or piping		

3. JOB STEPS, HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Set up a clean, level cutting area away from walkways	Slips and trips Poor housekeeping and waste	**Medium** **Likely / Minor**	1.1 Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. [Eliminate] 1.2 Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. [Engineering] 1.3 Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths. [Engineering] 1.4 Clean up offcuts, packaging and spills as you go, not at the end of the day. [Administrative] 1.5 Keep work areas, stairs and access paths well lit. [Administrative]	**Low** **Unlikely / Minor**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				1.6 Wear safety boots with good grip, laced up. [PPE] 1.7 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 1.8 Put skip bins and waste chutes close to the work. [Engineering] 1.9 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Administrative] 1.10 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Administrative] 1.11 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Administrative] 1.12 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE]		
2	Cut studs and plates with guards working, keeping hands clear of the blade	Saw cuts and kickback Wood and MDF dust Loud noise Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.1 Noise	**High** **Possible / Major**	2.1 Keep blade guards fitted and working, and use the riving knife on table saws. [Engineering] 2.2 Use push sticks and clamps, and support long pieces so they do not pinch the blade. [Engineering] 2.3 Use a sharp, undamaged blade made for the material. [Administrative] 2.4 Stand to one side of the blade line, out of the kickback path. [Administrative] 2.5 Let the blade stop fully before reaching in or putting the saw down. [Administrative] 2.6 Buy pre-cut or pre-finished timber where you can. [Substitute] 2.7 Cut outdoors or in a well-ventilated area away from others. [Isolate] 2.8 Use saws and sanders with dust extraction connected to an M-class (or better) vacuum. [Engineering] 2.9 Clean up with a vacuum, not a broom or compressed air. [Administrative] 2.10 Wear a P2 dust mask for cutting and sanding. [PPE] 2.11 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials, low-noise machines and battery tools. [Substitute] 2.12 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate] 2.13 Keep tools maintained and use mufflers on compressors and generators. [Engineering] 2.14 Limit time on noisy tools and rotate workers. [Administrative] 2.15 If you have to shout to be heard 1 metre away, wear hearing protection. [Administrative] 2.16 Keep exposure below 85 dB(A) over 8 hours. Give hearing tests to workers who often need hearing protection. [Administrative]	**Medium** **Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor
3	Nail frames together on the deck, using sequential trigger on nail guns	Nail gun injuries Compressed air Eye injuries	**High** **Possible / Major**	3.1 Use a nail gun with a sequential (single shot) trigger, not a contact or bump trigger. [Substitute] 3.2 Disconnect the air or battery before clearing jams, adjusting or moving between work areas. [Engineering] 3.3 Keep your free hand at least 30 cm from the nailing point. [Administrative] 3.4 Never point the gun at anyone or carry it with your finger on the trigger. [Administrative] 3.5 Train new users before they use a nail gun, and check for pipes,	**Medium** **Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				cables and metal behind the surface. [Administrative] 3.6 Fit whip checks (safety cables) on hose joints and check hoses before use. [Engineering] 3.7 Fit a pressure regulator and keep pressure to the tool's rating. [Engineering] 3.8 Turn off and bleed the line before disconnecting. [Administrative] 3.9 Never use compressed air to clean clothes or skin, or point it at anyone. [Administrative] 3.10 Wear safety glasses and hearing protection. [PPE] 3.11 Use tool guards and screens to stop flying particles. [Engineering] 3.12 Use dust extraction and water to keep dust out of the air. [Engineering] 3.13 Keep others out of the area when cutting, grinding or chipping. [Administrative] 3.14 Keep an eye wash station or eye wash bottles on site. [Administrative] 3.15 Wear safety glasses at all times, goggles for dust and chemicals, and a face shield for grinding. [PPE]		
4	Stand frames with enough people and brace them straight away	Lifting and carrying heavy loads Structural collapse during alterations Strong wind and storms Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.2 Hazardous manual tasks	**High Likely / Moderate**	4.1 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 4.2 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Substitute] 4.3 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Engineering] 4.4 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Administrative] 4.5 Keep the load close, back straight and no twisting. Turn with your feet. [Administrative] 4.6 Get an engineer to check before removing any wall, beam, post or bracing that may be load-bearing. [Eliminate] 4.7 Keep everyone clear of the area under and next to the work. [Isolate] 4.8 Install temporary props, needles or shoring as designed before removing any support. [Engineering] 4.9 Follow the engineer's sequence. Do not change it without approval. [Administrative] 4.10 Check props daily. Do not remove them until the permanent support is in and approved. [Administrative] 4.11 Install temporary support to the engineer's or temporary works design before any load bearing element is altered. [Administrative] 4.12 Check the forecast each morning and plan work at height and lifting around the weather. [Eliminate] 4.13 Tie down or weigh down loose sheets, panels, boards and rubbish at the end of each shift. [Engineering] 4.14 Set wind limits for roof work, platforms and cranes, using the manufacturer's limits, and stop when they are reached. [Administrative] 4.15 Stop work and get down in lightning. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back up. [Administrative]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				4.16 Check scaffold, fencing and edge protection after strong wind before anyone uses them. [Administrative]		
5	Guard slab or floor edges and openings near the work	Falling through a floor opening or void Falling from height Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.4 Falls	**Extreme Likely / Catastrophic**	5.1 Cover every hole and penetration with a fixed, secured cover marked "HOLE" or "DANGER". [Isolate] 5.2 Put guardrails with toe boards around stairwells, lift shafts, voids and open edges. [Isolate] 5.3 Install stairs early and fit temporary handrails as soon as they go in. [Engineering] 5.4 Never remove a cover or guardrail without approval. Put it back straight away. [Administrative] 5.5 Inspect covers and barriers daily and after other trades have been through. [Administrative] 5.6 Keep lighting good enough to see openings, especially on lower floors and in the evening. [Administrative] 5.7 Use a harness clipped to a rated anchor when working right next to an open void. [PPE] 5.8 Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. [Eliminate] 5.9 Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. [Isolate] 5.10 Use a scaffold, mobile work platform or EWP instead of working off a ladder. [Engineering] 5.11 Where edge protection is not practical, use a fall restraint or fall arrest system on a rated anchor point. [Engineering] 5.12 Everyone working at height holds a White Card and has been briefed on this SWMS before going up. [Administrative] 5.13 Have a written emergency and rescue plan, tested before work starts, so a worker hanging in a harness can be brought down within minutes (WHS Regulations r.80). [Administrative] 5.14 Wear a full body harness with a shock-absorbing lanyard, clipped on at all times when using fall arrest. [PPE]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor
6	Clean up offcuts and nails at the end of each day	Poor housekeeping and waste Slips and trips	**Medium Likely / Minor**	6.1 Poor housekeeping and waste: see step 1 for the full controls [Administrative] 6.2 Slips and trips: see step 1 for the full controls [Administrative]	**Low Unlikely / Minor**	Site supervisor

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Extreme. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control: Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Steel cap boots Safety glasses Hearing protection (earmuffs or plugs)	None required

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Work gloves Hard hat P2 dust mask Safety goggles Face shield	

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Nail gun					
Circular saw		Test and tag every 3 months on construction sites (AS/NZS 3012); visual check and RCD push-button test before use			
Drop saw		Test and tag every 3 months on construction sites (AS/NZS 3012); visual check and RCD push-button test before use			
Air compressor					
Platform ladder		Check before each use to the manufacturer and AS/NZS 1892; tag out damaged ladders			

6. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

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

7. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	000	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout for help and stop work. Make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Call the emergency number and send someone to meet the ambulance.
Reporting incidents	Notify the regulator immediately of any notifiable incident and preserve the site.		

8. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE CONTROLS

How they are put in place	Controls are set up before the work starts. The person responsible explains this SWMS to every worker before they start, and workers sign to confirm they understand it.	**How they are monitored**	The person responsible checks the controls are in place before work starts each day and during the work, and talks to the workers about any problems. Stop work and review this SWMS if the work changes, the controls are not working, after any incident, or if a worker raises a concern.
When it is reviewed	Reviewed when the work or site changes, after		

	any incident, if a control is not working, or if a worker or health and safety representative asks.		

Legal basis: Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011, Part 6.3 (Victoria: OHS Regulations 2017). A SWMS must be prepared before any high risk construction work starts. It must list the high risk work, the hazards and risks, the control measures, and how those controls will be put in place, monitored and reviewed. It must be easy for the workers to read and understand.

Keep this SWMS, and every revised version, until the high risk construction work is finished, where workers and inspectors can see it on site. If a notifiable incident happens during the work, keep it for at least 2 years after the incident.

9. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

10. SIGN-OFF

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Person responsible (supervisor)				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each worker confirms they were consulted on and have read and understood this SWMS, and will follow it. If the work cannot be done as this SWMS says, stop as soon as it is safe and do not restart until the SWMS is reviewed.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date