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	Backflow prevention device testing	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Plumbing

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Find the device and set up cones if it is near a driveway or road	Road traffic Public entering the work area Rules: Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice (Red Book); CDM Regulations 2015	Workers, Road users, Public, Children. How: Passing cars and trucks hit workers or plant working on or next to a road. Members of the public, including children, walk into the site and are hit by plant or falling objects, or fall into holes.	**Very high (15) Possible / Fatal**	1.1 Do the work at low-traffic times, or close the road or lane with approval. [Eliminate] 1.2 Put solid barriers between the work and traffic where speeds are high, not just cones. [Isolate] 1.3 Use a truck-mounted attenuator or buffer vehicle on high speed roads. [Control (engineering)] 1.4 Set up signs and cones to Chapter 8 (Traffic Signs Manual) by trained operatives. [Control (procedures)] 1.5 Get a street works permit or licence from the highway authority before you start. [Control (procedures)] 1.6 Park work vehicles to shield the work zone, with beacons on. [Control (procedures)] 1.7 Wear Class 2 or 3 hi-vis clothing (EN ISO 20471). [PPE] 1.8 Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. [Isolate] 1.9 Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. [Isolate] 1.10 Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas. [Control (engineering)] 1.11 Put signs at each entry: site name, contact number and "No unauthorised entry". [Control (procedures)] 1.12 Make the site safe at the end of each day: cover holes, lower plant, remove ladders and lock tools away. [Control (procedures)] 1.13 Use a spotter when moving plant or materials across public paths. [Control (procedures)]	**Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
2	Open the pit or cage, checking for spiders, snakes and sharp edges	Bites and stings Cuts from sharp edges Falling through a floor opening or void Rules: Work at Height	Workers, Visitors. How: Spiders, wasps, bees, ticks and dogs bite or sting workers in roof spaces, under floors and in gardens.	**Very high (15) Possible / Fatal**	2.1 Check work areas before starting, and get pest control to remove nests. [Eliminate] 2.2 Look before you reach into dark spaces. [Control (procedures)] 2.3 Ask owners to keep pets away from the work area. [Control (procedures)] 2.4 Know who has allergies and keep their medication, such as an	**Medium (6) Unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
		Regulations 2005	Sheet metal, glass, blades, cable tray and offcuts cut hands and arms.		adrenaline auto-injector, close by. [Control (procedures)] 2.5 Wear gloves, long sleeves and boots. Use insect repellent outdoors. [PPE] 2.6 Deburr or cover sharp edges, and fit edge protectors on exposed sheet metal. [Control (engineering)] 2.7 Use knives with retractable or self-retracting blades. [Control (engineering)] 2.8 Cut away from your body and keep your other hand clear. [Control (procedures)] 2.9 Put used blades in a blade bin or sharps container. [Control (procedures)] 2.10 Use two people to handle large sheets of metal or glass. [Control (procedures)] 2.11 Cover every hole and penetration with a fixed, secured cover marked "HOLE" or "DANGER". [Isolate] 2.12 Put guardrails with toe boards around stairwells, lift shafts, voids and open edges. [Isolate] 2.13 Install stairs early and fit temporary handrails as soon as they go in. [Control (engineering)] 2.14 Never remove a cover or guardrail without approval. Put it back straight away. [Control (procedures)] 2.15 Inspect covers and barriers daily and after other trades have been through. [Control (procedures)]		
3	Tell the site the water will be off, then isolate the device	Working in an occupied home or building Stored energy	Residents, Children, Staff, Workers. How: Residents, staff or children wander into the work area and get hurt, or the work blocks exits or cuts off power or water while people are inside. Energy left in springs, hydraulics, compressed gas, raised loads or capacitors releases suddenly and crushes or injures workers.	**Medium (9) Possible / Lost time injury**	3.1 Plan noisy, dusty or risky work for when the building is empty. [Eliminate] 3.2 Close off the work area with barriers, plastic sheeting or locked doors, and put up signs. [Isolate] 3.3 Keep fire exits and paths clear at all times. [Control (procedures)] 3.4 Tell occupants before you turn off power, water or gas, and before noisy or dusty work. [Control (procedures)] 3.5 Lock away tools, chemicals and materials each day, out of reach of children. [Control (procedures)] 3.6 Clean up dust and debris at the end of each day. [Control (procedures)] 3.7 Release or block all stored energy before work: release the pressure in pipes, tanks and hoses, bleed hydraulics, release springs, lower loads. [Eliminate] 3.8 Lock out and tag all energy sources with personal locks. [Isolate] 3.9 Put mechanical blocks or props under raised parts like buckets, tipper bodies and doors. [Control (engineering)] 3.10 Test that the system is dead and nothing can move before you start. [Control (procedures)] 3.11 Follow the maker's procedure, for example for garage door and roller door springs. [Control (procedures)] 3.12 Wear safety glasses and gloves. [PPE]	**Low (4) Very unlikely / Major injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
4	Connect the test kit and run the test	Pressure testing High pressure water jetting Rules: Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000	Workers, Occupants, People nearby. How: A pipe, fitting or cap fails under test pressure and blows apart, hitting people nearby. High pressure water cuts through skin and injects water and dirt into the body, or the hose whips.	**Medium (8) Unlikely / Major injury**	4.1 Test with water instead of air or gas where the system allows it. Never put water in refrigerant pipework, which is tested with dry nitrogen. [Reduce / substitute] 4.2 Keep people out of the test area with signs and barriers. [Isolate] 4.3 Use a calibrated gauge and a relief valve set to protect the system. [Control (engineering)] 4.4 Test to the pressure the system calls for and hold it for the set time. Never go over. [Control (procedures)] 4.5 Release the pressure fully before tightening anything or fixing leaks. [Control (procedures)] 4.6 Wear safety glasses or a face shield. [PPE] 4.7 Set an exclusion zone around the jetting area. [Isolate] 4.8 Use a dead man's trigger that stops the jet when released, and check hoses and fittings before use. [Control (engineering)] 4.9 Only trained operators use high pressure jetting gear. [Control (procedures)] 4.10 Never point the lance at anyone or put a hand in front of it. [Control (procedures)] 4.11 Treat any jetting injury as serious and go to hospital, even if it looks small. [Control (procedures)] 4.12 Wear a face shield, waterproof clothing, gloves, hearing protection and safety boots. [PPE]	**Low (4) Very unlikely / Major injury**	Site supervisor
5	Restore supply, tag the device and lodge the report	Slips and trips Poor housekeeping and waste	Workers, Visitors, Public. How: Workers slip on wet or muddy ground or trip on leads, offcuts and uneven ground, causing sprains, broken bones or head injuries. Rubbish, offcuts and materials left lying around cause trips, cuts and fires, and block exits.	**Medium (8) Likely / Minor injury**	5.1 Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. [Eliminate] 5.2 Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. [Control (engineering)] 5.3 Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths. [Control (engineering)] 5.4 Clean up offcuts, packaging and spills as you go, not at the end of the day. [Control (procedures)] 5.5 Keep work areas, stairs and access paths well lit. [Control (procedures)] 5.6 Wear safety boots with good grip, laced up. [PPE] 5.7 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 5.8 Put skips and waste chutes close to the work. [Control (engineering)] 5.9 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Control (procedures)] 5.10 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Control (procedures)] 5.11 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Control (procedures)] 5.12 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).	**Low (4) Unlikely / Minor injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
					[Control (procedures)] 5.13 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.

3. METHOD STATEMENT: SEQUENCE OF WORK

Step	What we will do	How it is done safely
1	Find the device and set up cones if it is near a driveway or road	Do the work at low-traffic times, or close the road or lane with approval. Put solid barriers between the work and traffic where speeds are high, not just cones. Use a truck-mounted attenuator or buffer vehicle on high speed roads.
2	Open the pit or cage, checking for spiders, snakes and sharp edges	Check work areas before starting, and get pest control to remove nests. Look before you reach into dark spaces. Ask owners to keep pets away from the work area.
3	Tell the site the water will be off, then isolate the device	Plan noisy, dusty or risky work for when the building is empty. Close off the work area with barriers, plastic sheeting or locked doors, and put up signs. Keep fire exits and paths clear at all times.
4	Connect the test kit and run the test	Test with water instead of air or gas where the system allows it. Never put water in refrigerant pipework, which is tested with dry nitrogen. Keep people out of the test area with signs and barriers. Use a calibrated gauge and a relief valve set to protect the system.
5	Restore supply, tag the device and lodge the report	Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Safety boots Rigger gloves Safety glasses Hi-vis vest Coveralls Cut-resistant gloves FFP3 dust mask Face shield Ear defenders	Permit to work (electrical isolation)

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Electrical test equipment		Check leads and probes meet HSE GS38 before each use; prove the voltage indicator on a proving unit before			

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
(multifunction tester)		and after; calibrate at the maker's interval (usually yearly)			
Hand tools					

6. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

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

7. 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).		

8. 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.		

9. 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.

10. REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

Rev	Date	By	What changed

11. 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

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