



HANDOUT 16

Risk Rating Template

Risk assessment involves an evaluation process to identify:

- **Hazard** – the potential to cause harm
- **Risk** – the likelihood of an event occurring which will allow the hazard to be realised

To assist in prioritising and identifying areas requiring improvements and controls the level of risk may rate according to the Probability (likelihood) and Severity (consequence) of harm resulting from the hazard.

Therefore, Risk Rating = Probability (P) x Severity (S)

Probability: How likely that harm will occur

Severity: The amount of harm that will occur

Risk Rating: The level of risk remaining after controls have been implemented

Probability (P)

Title	Description	Score
Almost Certain	Management controls are absent. If the conditions remain unchanged there will be almost a 100% certainty that an accident will occur. E.g. untrained personnel, broken guarding, live exposed electrical cable.	5
High	There is a severe failure in management controls. The effects of human behaviour or other factors could cause an accident but is unlikely without this additional factor. E.g. poorly trained personnel, machine left unguarded.	4
Medium	Insufficient or sub-standard controls in place. Loss is unlikely in normal operation; however, it may occur in emergencies or non-routine conditions. E.g. blocked gangways, keys left in forklift - refresher training required.	3
Low	The situation is generally well managed - however occasional lapses could occur. This also applies to situations where people are required to behave safely in order to protect themselves but are well trained.	2
Improbable	Loss, accident or illness could only occur in freak conditions. The situation is well managed and all reasonable precautions have been taken. Ideally, this should be the normal state of the workplace.	1

Severity (S)

Title	Description	Score
Major	Will cause a fatality to one or more people. The loss or damage will result in severe disruption to business. E.g. structural damage, major fire, explosion, scaffold collapse.	5
High	Will result in a permanent disability. E.g. loss of sight, limb amputation, loss of hearing, chronic illness.	4
Medium	Causing temporary disability. E.g. fractures or illness leading to loss of time.	3
Low	Significant injury. E.g. sprains, strains, lacerations.	2
Minor	Minor, superficial injuries such as lacerations. No time lost other than first aid treatment.	1

Risk Rating - Probability (P) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (Score)

Probability	Severity				
	Minor	Low	Medium	High	Major
Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25
High	4	8	12	16	20
Medium	3	6	9	12	15
Low	2	4	6	8	10
Improbable	1	2	3	4	5