

Risk Assessment

What is a risk assessment?

Risk assessment is a term used to describe the overall process or method where you: identify hazards and risk factors that have the potential to cause harm (hazard identification). Analyze and evaluate the risk associated with that hazard (risk analysis, and risk evaluation). Determine appropriate ways to eliminate the hazard, or control the risk when the hazard cannot be eliminated (risk control).

Hazard identification – the process of finding, listing, and characterizing hazards.

Risk analysis – a process for comprehending the nature of hazards and determining the level of risk.

Notes:

- (1) Risk analysis provides a basis for risk evaluation and decisions about risk control.
- (2) Information can include current and historical data, theoretical analysis, informed opinions, and the concerns of stakeholders.
- (3) Risk analysis includes risk estimation.

Risk evaluation – the process of comparing an estimated risk against given risk criteria to determine the significance of the risk.

Risk control – actions implementing risk evaluation decisions.

Note: Risk control can involve monitoring, re-evaluation, and compliance with decisions.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is the process of evaluating risks to workers' safety and health from workplace hazards. It is a systematic examination of all aspects of work that considers:

- What could cause injury or harm;
- Whether the hazards could be eliminated and, if not;
- What preventive or protective measures are, or should be, in place to control the risks.