

Risk management and building and construction: Building and construction: Industrial Technology

Answers

Activity 1

Visit the WorkCover web site

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/FAQs/default.htm> and answer the following questions in relation to risk management.

1. What is risk management?

Risk management is the process of:

- a) Identifying any foreseeable hazard: anything in the workplace that has potential to harm anyone at the workplace, e.g. moving parts in machinery, toxic chemicals, manual handling tasks.
- b) Assessing the risk from the hazard: finding out how significant the risk is, e.g. will it cause a serious injury, illness or death and how likely is this to occur?
- c) Eliminating the hazard or if this is not possible, controlling the risk from the hazard: implementing strategies to eliminate or control the hazard, e.g. design equipment differently, add machine guards, use safer chemicals, provide lifting devices to minimise manual handling or use personal protective equipment.
- d) Reviewing risk assessment: to monitor and improve control measures and find safer ways of doing things.

2. When must risk management be done?

Risk management must be undertaken by employers:

- before using any premises as a place of work
- before and during installation, erection, commissioning or alteration of plant in a place of work
- before changes to work practices and systems of work are introduced
- before hazardous substances are introduced into a place of work
- while work is being carried out
- when new or additional health and safety information relevant to the employer's business becomes available.

3. What is a hazard?

A hazard is anything (including work practices or procedures) that has the potential to harm the health or safety of a person. Hazards can arise from:

- the workplace environment
- the use of plant and substances
- poor work design or practices
- inappropriate management systems and procedures and
- human behaviour.

4. What are some ways in which you can identify hazards?

A number of procedures can be implemented to identify workplace hazards:

- observation
- consultation
- workplace inspections
- health and environment monitoring
- safety audits
- monitoring complaints
- monitoring injury and illness records.

5. Are there any exemptions for risk management?

There are no exemptions to risk management. Risk management applies to all hazards and all workplaces covered by the OH&S Act and Regulations.