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R&R PROJECTS LTD

General Roofing Risk Assessment

Only staff and contractors who are 'Authorised' by R&R Projects management are allowed to access roof areas.
This generic risk assessment has been produced in order to assist those who have a legitimate need to access and/or work on a roof to do so safely. The controls as listed below are to be applied by Managers and Supervisors to assist them to manage the work of their staff thereby ensuring that a 'safe system of work' is in place. The generic risk assessment is also to be shared with staff that should be aware of the hazards. The control measures below must be observed at all times.

Please note the term "workers" when used below includes any person authorised to be on a roof.

Hazard	Persons at risk	Type of harm	Existing control measures	Further action required
Work at Height	Workers Passers by	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• All roof work is properly risk assessed, planned and controlled. • Worker adheres to the guidance contained in the HSE Health & • Safety in Roof Work guidance. • Worker selects the correct work at height equipment for the task e.g. ladder, step ladder, mobile platform. • Worker is advised where possible avoid the need to access the roof e.g: use powered access platform. • Worker reads this assessment in conjunction with the establishment's risk assessment(s) for the work at height equipment used. • Work at height equipment e.g. step ladders is subject to routine inspection.	

			• Worker is competent to use the equipment after training. • Worker is advise that ladders should not be used if there is the possibility of contact with overhead electric wires. • Worker is advised never to use any unauthorised equipment or structures to access the roof.	
Gaps in roof coverings	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• If work is undertaken within 2m of gaps in roofs: such gaps are covered or safety netting installed below.	
Skylights	Workers and others in vicinity (falling objects)	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising,	• Worker is advised not to stand on or walk over skylights • Fragile roof / skylights are either covered, signed as hazardous or have physical barriers around them. • In some instances access to the location is restricted to those using fall restraint / arrest equipment.	Those accessing roofs where skylights exist are to avoid these hazard areas where possible.
Fragile Materials	Workers and others in vicinity (falling objects)	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Fragility of roof material is assessed prior to work commencing; • Fragile roofs are identified with warning signs; • Worker is advised not go onto or near to a fragile surface unless it is the only reasonably practicable way for the work to be completed. In this situation suitable support is provided by the use	

			of platforms or coverings. Support platforms to be at last 600mm wide and to be provided with means to prevent falls.	
Weather Conditions - high winds, heavy rain, hot weather etc	Workers	Fall injuries, sun burn, heat exhaustion	• Do not work at height in storms or strong winds. • Managers / those granting permission for roof access are to consider the implications the weather could have on the safety of operatives. • Worker wears clothing appropriate to the weather conditions • Worker wears clothing to cover skin and wears sunscreen in hot sunshine • Worker keeps well hydrated and takes regular breaks in hot weather.	Be particularly mindful of the 'sail' effect which large work materials can produce e.g. on plywood sheets, glazing. This 'sail effect' can be extremely hazardous, even in light winds.
Falling Materials / Tools	Workers and others in vicinity (falling objects)	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Worker is advised that nothing should be thrown from the roof. • Access to the area below and adjacent to the roof is prohibited and • Safety Signs are displayed; • Worker is advised to arrange work times at times when the number of passersby is likely to be low; • Worker ensures good housekeeping to prevent the build up of material; • Worker wears appropriate PPE to include non-slip shoes; • Worker is advised not to place equipment on the edge of the roof; • Tool belts are used where necessary.	Be particularly mindful of the 'sail' effect which large work materials can produce e.g. plywood, glazing. This sail effect can be extremely hazardous even in light winds blowing material off towers

			• Items must be attached to a safety lanyard.	
Hazardous Emissions	Workers	Death, respiratory failure, cancer	• It is required that that all fume stacks rise a distance of not less than 3 metres above primary roof level, this provides a high level of protection to those workers who may have to access the roof. • Workers are however advised not to work for extended periods of time within a 3 metre radius of a fume stack unless this has been approved by their Manager.	In the event that it is necessary to work at height on a roof adjacent to e.g. within a 3 metre radius of a fume stack vent this should only be undertaken via a permit to work. In the event that a fume stack is less than 3 metres above the primary roof surface workers must not go onto the roof without the permission of their manager.
No or limited edge protection	Workers, passers by	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Falls are prevented by provision of edge protection; • Where there is not suitable protection: Provide guard- rail, intermediate rail and toe board; Where this is not practical consider use of mobile anchor system or the use of powered access equipment for work of short duration; • Where work is limited to areas of the roof that do not involve going within 2 m of the open edge then a system of demarcation is set up using a physical	

			barrier - No one to go outside the marked area. ● No person to be within 2 metres of an unprotected roof edge unless they are using fall arrest / restraint apparatus and working in compliance with a permit to work. ● Operatives to give full regard to weather conditions when planning works on unprotected roofs.	
Sloping roof (>10%)	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● Sloping roofs are not to be walked on by staff /contractors unless access arrangements are included in a safe system of work as agreed via a permit to work.	
Lone Working	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● Lone Working on roofs is not permitted unless with the express permission of a manager or supervisor.	
Slippery Roofs	Workers, passers by	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● Staff/contractors to wear appropriate footwear when accessing roofs and exercise caution where roofs are wet or icy.	
Overloading Roof	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● Where heavy plant or materials are to be placed on a roof consideration must be given to the safe working load of the roof. Where there is any doubt the Facilities Management competent	Always consider distributing the weight with use of spreader plates, joists or sheeting.

			person must be consulted.	
Fixed Vertical Ladders	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Staff / contractors to exercise caution when using these ladders. Always maintain the maximum number of contacts with the ladder and avoid using hands to carry tools / equipment. • Do not use vertical ladders as work platforms.	Exercise greater caution where ladders are not fitted with hoop protection.
Poor or no lighting	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Do not carry out work operations in poorly lit areas. • Provide additional lighting – extension leads, torches if required etc. • Beware of trip hazards presented by extension leads.	
Asbestos - e.g. cement roof sheets, glazing rope.	Workers	asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer	• Check the building's asbestos history before work commences. • Follow the asbestos procedure.	
Hot works on roofs	Workers	Skin/eye burns, dizziness, fainting, death	• No Hot Works are to be undertaken without a Hot Work Permit. • Any contractor undertaking hot works must comply with the conditions required by the hot work permit. • To prevent fires keep flammable material, gases and/or liquids well away from the heat source. • Nominate a fire watcher where indicated by the risk assessment; • Seal off air intakes and roof openings to keep fumes and flame out of the	Don’t torch directly onto building materials, flashing, or voids in the roof. Be careful on steep slopes; walk-behinds can roll away or tip over. Never hang a torch over a roof edge. Stop work 2-3 hours before you leave a job

			building. ● Have fire extinguishers available. ● Make an emergency plan. ● Know the roof's escape routes. ● Set up communication between the roof crew, building, and ground workers. ● Know the local emergency numbers for fire and medical services. ● Know first aid for heat illness and severe burns.	to prevent hot spots or smouldering fires. To prevent electric shock, use circuit breakers and avoid rain or wet areas. Don't touch grounded objects such as pipes or scaffolding while operating the equipment. Don't overheat plastic membranes, they can emit toxic compounds.
Electrical hazards	Workers	Electrocution, electric shock, dealth	● All staff to work in compliance with IEE Regulations	
Manual handling	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● All Workers to work in compliance with the Risk Assessment / Method Statement and apply 'best practice' handling techniques.	
Trip hazards	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	● There can be many trip hazards on roofs due to the presence of services, plant, gantries and roof finishes. Workers should always wear footwear which is appropriate to the task being undertaken and always pay attention to where they are walking. ● Purpose made walkways should be	

			used where provided.	
Cradle access systems	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Cradle systems are 'mobile elevating working platforms' and are not to be operated other than by IPAF (International Powered Access Federation) qualified persons.	
Hazardous substances	Workers	Damage the skin, long-term damage to the lungs, dizziness, stinging eyes, lung disease, death.	• Any known hazards will be detailed on the roof risk profile which is to be shared with staff and contractors.	
Head height obstructions	Workers	Head Injury, concussion, fractures, death	• Wear appropriate PPE.	
Poor 'housekeeping'	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Keep areas tidy and unobstructed at all times. Promptly remove unused materials from roof area after works have been completed.	Report to the Building Manager any structural damage you may find and any work materials which have been left by others.
Poor communications	Workers	Death, fractures, musculoskeletal injuries, head injuries, bruising, lacerations	• Some roofs due to their profile of hazard will be designated as 'No lone-working locations'. Where lone working is permitted, workers are to have the means to communicate with their other workers.	

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Power tools usage	Workers	hearing loss, risk of falls, electrocution, injuries from tool malfunctions, hearing damage, hand-arm vibration syndrome, kickback incidents, respiratory issues due to dust exposure, fire hazards, musculoskeletal problems from improper ergonomics, and potential injuries during tool storage and transportation.	• Ensure all workers receive thorough training on tool usage, emphasising authorization and competence. • Regularly inspect and maintain tools, addressing defects promptly. • Enforce electrical safety practices, prohibiting tool use in wet conditions and checking cords for damage. • Mandate the use of appropriate PPE, including eye and hearing protection. • Manage noise and vibration exposure, provide anti-vibration tools, and educate on kickback prevention. • Control dust generation, especially during cutting or grinding, and provide respiratory protection. • Establish guidelines for working near flammable materials and promote proper ergonomic practices. • Secure proper tool storage and transportation, minimising damage or theft. • Regularly monitor adherence to these measures, conduct refresher training, and foster a safety-oriented culture.	