

# RISK CONTROL

Once the risk assessment has been completed the next step is to identify and select the appropriate risk controls. Controls need to be developed using the Hierarchy of Controls (see NOTE and diagram), which works through a number of options from the most to the least desirable.

- **Elimination** – can the hazard be eliminated altogether e.g. by eliminating the need to do the job?
- **Substitution** – if elimination is not possible can something less harmful be used instead e.g. using fiberglass as an insulating material instead of asbestos?
- **Engineering** – can the hazard be isolated from the person e.g. through machine guarding dust/fume extraction, sound dampening devices or the person being isolated from the hazard e.g. by installing handrails or other barriers or changes to materials and equipment?

# RISK CONTROL

**Administration** - where the other preferable controls are not possible or not sufficient on their own are there other controls available such as training, written procedures, permits to work for high risk activities, job rotation, job sharing, changes to work methods considered?

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – the least preferred option because it is totally dependent on the individual to use, wear it and maintain it correctly. The problem is the hazard is still there so exposure to the hazard will occur if the PPE is not used correctly

## RESIDUAL RISK

**When considering appropriate risk controls**, you will find many hazards and risks have already been controlled through applying different levels from the hierarchy of controls e.g. guarding machinery in a workshop, spill containments and use of fume hoods in a laboratory, Standard Operating Procedures available, training records and PPE available and in use. However, your risk assessment may indicate the control doesn't fully eliminate the potential of the hazard to cause harm, there is a need to assess this remaining risk which is referred to as the residual risk.

# RESIDUAL RISK

The level of residual risk will enable a decision to be made to either:

- Accept the risk;
- To stop the activity or project; or
- To continue to search for better controls.

For activities that are to be implemented or to continue, we also formulate a 'corrective action plan' to better control hazards.

# CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The corrective action plan lists the suggested controls, when the controls need to be in place by, and who is responsible for their implementation.

The priorities for action depend on the level of risk and the following can be used as a guide:

- **Extreme** - Additional controls are essential. They are to be implemented before the activity commences when possible but if this is not possible they should be implemented within one month;
- **High** - Additional controls are required. They are to be implemented before the activity commences but if this is not possible they should be implemented within 3 - 6 months;
- **Medium** - Additional controls may need to be considered with scheduling within 6 – 12 months
- **Low** – additional controls are unlikely to be required

## RISK REVIEW

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Ongoing monitoring and review ensures that the controls have been effective, and still are effective in controlling the risk of the hazard, and has the following benefits:

## RISK REVIEW

- Measures the effectiveness of the risk controls;
- Identifies any new hazards that may have been subsequently introduced into the system of work;
  - Validates any new controls that may have been successfully introduced into the system of work;
- Documented monitoring and review systems provide formal evidence of health and safety compliance;
- Contributes to a safer place of work;
- Involves those in the workplace in ongoing continual improvement