

Classification of Risk (Risk Matrix) (‘RPN’ column)

Likelihood	Rare (1)	Remote (2)	Occasional (3)	Frequent (4)	Almost Certain (5)
Severity					
Catastrophic (5)	5	10	15	20	25
Major (4)	4	8	12	16	20
Moderate (3)	3	6	9	12	15
Minor (2)	2	4	6	8	10
Negligible (1)	1	2	3	4	5

Risk level	Risk Acceptability	Recommended Actions
Low Risk	Acceptable	- No additional risk control measures may be needed. - Frequent review and monitoring of hazards are required to ensure that the risk level assigned is accurate and does not increase over time.
Medium Risk	Tolerable	- A careful evaluation of the hazards should be carried out to ensure that the risk level is reduced to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) within a defined time period. - Interim risk control measures, such as administrative controls or PPE, may be implemented while longer term measures are being established. - Management attention is required.
High Risk	Not acceptable	- High Risk level must be reduced to at least Medium Risk before work commences. - There should not be any interim risk control measures. Risk control measures should not be overly dependent on PPE or appliances. - If practicable, the hazard should be eliminated before work commences. - Management review is required before work commences.

Severity Scoring (‘S’ column)

Level	Severity	Description
5	Catastrophic	Fatality, fatal diseases or multiple major injuries.
4	Major	Serious injuries or life-threatening occupational disease (includes amputations, major fractures, multiple injuries, occupational cancer, acute poisoning).
3	Moderate	Injury requiring medical treatment or ill-health leading to disability (includes lacerations, burns, sprains, minor fractures, dermatitis, deafness, work-related upper limb disorders).
2	Minor	Injury or ill-health requiring first-aid only (includes minor cuts and bruises, irritation, ill-health with temporary discomfort).
1	Negligible	Not likely to cause injury or ill-health.

Likelihood Scoring (‘L’ column)

Level	Likelihood	Description
1	Rare	Not expected to occur but still possible.
2	Remote	Not likely to occur under normal circumstances.
3	Occasional	Possible or known to occur.
4	Frequent	Common occurrence.
5	Almost Certain	Continual or repeating experience.

Figure 1 Risk matrix and classification of risk (WSH Council, 2011)