

Plant hazard checklist

Some of the questions you should ask to help identify hazards arising from plant.

June 2017

Introduction

This checklist provides a typical range of questions that can be asked to help with the identification of hazards associated with plant. It may be used as a starting point, with certain questions added or deleted to make the checklist appropriate to the plant and associated systems of work being examined.

If “yes” is the answer to a question in the checklist, the plant, parts of the plant and/or the situation associated with the hazard, should be identified on the checklist.

The following are examples of hazards identified and recorded in checklists:

- someone’s fingers may get caught between the two rollers of the paper processing machine
- the pipe containing high pressure fluids in the stamping machine may burst
- the boom of the mobile crane may touch the overhead powerlines
- people may trip over the electric power lead for the bench grinder

When completing the checklist, consider the hazards that may affect:

- plant operators
- anyone working, or in the vicinity of, the plant
- others who could be affected, such as visitors, contractors, etc.

Hazard Checklist

If “yes” is the answer to a question in the checklist, the plant, parts of the plant and/or the situation associated with the hazard should be written in the space provided.

A. Entanglement	Yes	No
Can anyone’s hair, clothing, gloves, necktie, jewellery, cleaning brushes, rags or other materials become entangled with moving parts of the plant, or materials in motion?		
B. Crushing	Yes	No
Can anyone be crushed due to:		
a. material falling off the plant?		
b. uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant or its load?		
c. lack of capacity for the plant to be slowed, stopped or immobilised?		
d. the plant tipping or rolling over?		
e. parts of the plant collapsing?		

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B. Crushing	Yes	No
f. coming in contact with moving parts of the plant during testing, inspection, operation, maintenance, cleaning or repair?		
g. being thrown off or under the plant?		
h. being trapped between the plant and materials or fixed structures?		
i. other factors not mentioned?		
C. Cutting, stabbing and puncturing	Yes	No
Can anyone be cut, stabbed or punctured due to:		
a. coming in contact with sharp or flying objects?		
b. coming in contact with moving parts of the plant during testing, inspection, operation, maintenance, cleaning or repair of the plant?		
c. the plant, parts of the plant or work pieces disintegrating?		
d. work pieces being ejected?		
e. the mobility of the plant?		
f. uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant?		
g. other factors not mentioned?		
D. Shearing	Yes	No
Can anyone's body parts be sheared between two parts of the plant, or between a part of the plant and a work piece or structure?		
E. Friction	Yes	No
Can anyone be burnt due to contact with moving parts or surfaces of the plant, or material handled by the plant?		
F. Stricking	Yes	No
Can anyone be struck by moving objects due to:		
a. uncontrolled or unexpected movement of the plant or material handled by the plant?		
b. the plant, parts of the plant or work pieces disintegrating?		
c. work pieces being ejected?		
d. mobility of the plant?		
e. other factors not mentioned?		
G. High Pressure Fluid	Yes	No
Can anyone come into contact with fluids under high pressure, due to plant failure or misuse of the plant?		

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H. Electrical	Yes	No
Can anyone be injured by electrical shock or burnt due to:		
a. the plant contacting live electrical conductors?		
b. the plant working in close proximity to electrical conductors?		
c. overload of electrical circuits?		
d. damaged or poorly maintained electrical leads and cables?		
e. damaged electrical switches?		
f. water near electrical equipment?		
g. lack of isolation procedures?		
h. other factors not mentioned?		
I. Explosion	Yes	No
Can anyone be injured by explosion of gases, vapours, liquids, dusts or other substances, triggered by the operation of the plant or by material handled by the plant?		
J. Tripping, slipping and falling	Yes	No
Can anyone using the plant, or in the vicinity of the plant, slip, trip or fall due to:		
a. uneven or slippery work surfaces?		
b. poor housekeeping, eg. swarf in the vicinity of the plant, spillage not cleaned up?		
c. obstacles being placed in the vicinity of the plant?		
d. other factors not mentioned?		
Can anyone fall from a height due to:		
a. lack of a proper work platform?		
b. lack of proper stairs or ladders?		
c. lack of guardrails or other suitable edge protection?		
d. unprotected holes, penetrations or gaps?		
e. poor floor or walking surfaces, such as the lack of a slip-resistant surface?		
f. steep walking surfaces?		
g. collapse of the supporting structure?		
h. other factors not mentioned?		
K. Ergonomic	Yes	No
Can anyone be injured due to:		
a. poorly designed seating?		
b. repetitive body movement?		
c. constrained body posture or the need for excessive effort?		

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K. Ergonomic	Yes	No
d. design deficiency causing mental or psychological stress?		
e. inadequate or poorly placed lighting?		
f. lack of consideration given to human error or human behaviour?		
g. other factors not mentioned? (For more information on hazards associated with manual handling, refer to the WorkSafe publication <i>Hazardous Manual Handling Compliance Code</i>)		
h. mismatch of the plant with human traits and natural limitations?		
L. Suffocation	Yes	No
Can anyone be suffocated due to lack of oxygen, or atmospheric contamination?		
M. High temperature or fire	Yes	No
Can anyone come into contact with objects at high temperatures?		
Can anyone be injured by fire?		
N. Temperature (thermal comfort)	Yes	No
Can anyone suffer ill-health due to exposure to high or low temperatures?		
O. Other hazards	Yes	No
Can anyone be injured or suffer ill-health from exposure to:		
a. chemicals? (For more information on hazards associated with chemicals, refer to the WorkSafe publications: <i>Code of Practice for Storage & Handling of Dangerous Goods</i> ; and <i>Hazardous Substances Compliance Code</i>)		
b. toxic gases or vapours?		
c. fumes?		
d. dust?		
e. noise? (For more information on hazards associated with noise, refer to the Worksafe publication <i>Noise Compliance Code</i>)		
f. vibration?		
g. radiation?		
h. other factors not mentioned?		

Further information

Contact the WorkSafe Victoria Advisory Service on **1800 136 089** or go to **worksafe.vic.gov.au** to download:

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*
- *Plant Compliance Code*
- *Hazardous Manual Handling Compliance Code*
- *Noise Compliance Code*
- *Hazardous Substances Compliance Code*
- *Code of Practice for Storage & Handling of Dangerous Goods*

This Checklist is intended for general use only and may not be applicable in every circumstance. You should always check any applicable legislation and make your own judgement about what action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with the law. Accordingly, WorkSafe cannot be held responsible and extends no warranties as to the suitability of the information for any particular purpose; or actions taken by third parties as a result of information contained in the Checklist.

This guidance has been reviewed and updated for the sole purpose of amending year and regulation references relating to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, in line with amendments which came into effect on 18 June 2017.