

## Residual Current Devices (RCDs) | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: Residual Current Devices (RCDs)

Business Name: [Company Name]

ABN: [ABN]

SWMS#

Business Address: [Company Address]

Contact Person:

Phone: [Phone]

Email:

### THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:

Signature:

Title:

Date:

Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring and compliance of the SWMS, as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.

Full Name:

Title:

Phone:

ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED

NAME AND DATED SIGNATURE OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS

Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, then to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.

If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.

Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.

The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

## CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS  Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as scope of works).
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Project Manager Signature:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

## ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT

<input type="checkbox"/> involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos.	<input type="checkbox"/> involves tilt-up or precast concrete.
<input type="checkbox"/> involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near a confined space.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives.	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	<input type="checkbox"/> involves diving work.

## ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

<input type="checkbox"/> Forklift	<input type="checkbox"/> Crane/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoist/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavator	<input type="checkbox"/> Backhoe/Loader	<input type="checkbox"/> Boom Lift	<input type="checkbox"/> EWP	<input type="checkbox"/> Genie Lift
<input type="checkbox"/> Trencher	<input type="checkbox"/> Drilling Rig	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks	<input type="checkbox"/> Formwork	<input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat	<input type="checkbox"/> Flammable Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Dozer
<input type="checkbox"/> High Voltage	<input type="checkbox"/> Mulcher	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilt-up Panels	<input type="checkbox"/> Roller	<input type="checkbox"/> Scissor Lift	<input type="checkbox"/> Tractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Other -	

RISK MATRIX											
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS			
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.			
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.			
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	<b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard			
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.			
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records	<b>Administrative</b> Change the work.			
<b>Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:</b> Elimination methods are the most effective and preferred when controlling a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the third most effective, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is the least effective method.											
<b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)</b>											
FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	EYE PROTECTION	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).											
<p><b>Note:</b> A SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective. A SWMS must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.</p> <p>When a SWMS has been revised, the person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure all:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>persons involved in the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS;</li> <li>persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS; and,</li> <li>workers that will be involved in the work are provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.</li> </ol>											

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
1. Preparation	Electrical shock, Trip hazards	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide training and awareness to all workers involved in the work step, emphasising the risks associated with electrical shock and trip hazards, as well as correct usage of RCDs.</li> <li>- Inspect the worksite prior to commencing work and identify any potential sources of electrical shock and trip hazards; address or eliminate these prior to starting work.</li> <li>- Ensure that all electrical equipment and tools are tested with appropriate RCDs to minimise the risk of electrical shock.</li> <li>- Arrange for regular testing and maintenance of RCDs to ensure they are working effectively and will provide the necessary protection against electrical shock.</li> <li>- Clearly mark and signpost any areas where trip hazards are present, such as uneven surfaces or protruding objects, so workers can take extra care when navigating these spaces.</li> <li>- Encourage good housekeeping practices among workers, including keeping the work area clean and free of unnecessary clutter to minimise the risk of tripping over items left on the ground.</li> <li>- Use cable protectors, ramps, or other cable management solutions to cover exposed cables and wires running across walking paths, reducing the likelihood of trips and falls.</li> <li>- Instruct workers to report any defective or damaged equipment immediately, particularly if it poses a risk of electrical shock, so it can be assessed and replaced if necessary.</li> <li>- Ensure all workers wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety shoes with slip-resistant soles, to reduce the risk of slipping or tripping while engaging in the work step.</li> <li>- Implement an emergency response plan in case of electrical shock incidents, with clear instructions on what steps need to be taken to respond safely and effectively.</li> <li>- Regularly review and update the SWMS as necessary, taking into account new equipment, changes in the workplace environment, or feedback from workers regarding the effectiveness of existing controls.</li> </ul>	1L	
2. RCD Installation	Incorrect wiring, Falling tools	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper training and certification: Ensure that all personnel involved in the RCD installation process are adequately trained and certified to work on electrical systems, minimising the risk of incorrect wiring.</li> <li>- Pre-installation checks: Conduct thorough checks on existing wiring and circuits before starting the installation process to identify any potential issues or risks.</li> <li>- Use of insulated tools: Provide workers with insulated tools specifically designed for electrical work to reduce the risk of electrical shock during the installation process.</li> </ul>	1L	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lockout/tagout procedures: Implement lockout/tagout procedures to isolate the electrical circuit being worked on, preventing accidental energising of the system during installation.</li> <li>- Fall protection equipment: Require workers to use appropriate fall protection equipment, such as harnesses and lanyards while working at heights to prevent falling tools and other objects from causing injuries.</li> <li>- Designated tool tethering: Encourage the use of designated tethering points on tools and equipment to secure them while working at heights, minimising the risk of dropped objects.</li> <li>- Clear communication protocols: Establish clear protocols for communication between team members during the RCD installation process to avoid misunderstandings or mistakes that could lead to hazards.</li> <li>- Regular workplace inspections: Conduct regular inspections of the work area to identify and rectify any potential hazards, such as loose wiring, exposed electrical components, or cluttered workspaces.</li> <li>- Safe access and egress: Ensure safe and unobstructed access and egress routes are maintained throughout the work area to minimise the risk of accidents or incidents involving workers and bystanders.</li> <li>- Protective clothing and PPE: Ensure that all workers wear appropriate protective clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety shoes, gloves, and hard hats, to protect against potential hazards during the RCD installation process.</li> <li>- Emergency response plan: Develop an emergency response plan that covers potential hazards related to RCD installations, including steps to quickly and safely address any incidents, such as electrical emergencies or injuries resulting from falling tools.</li> </ul>		
3. Testing RCD	Faulty equipment, Insufficient knowledge	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular inspection: Conduct a thorough inspection of the RCDs to identify any visible signs of damage, wear and tear, or tampering before commencing work activities.</li> <li>- Proper training: Ensure that only workers who have received appropriate training and certification in RCD testing are permitted to perform this task. This will help to prevent accidents and injuries caused by insufficient knowledge.</li> <li>- Test equipment: Use only approved RCD testing equipment that is properly calibrated and maintained, as recommended by the manufacturer.</li> <li>- Clear workspace: Maintain a clean and uncluttered working environment to reduce the risk of accidents during RCD testing procedures.</li> <li>- Pre-test checks: Carry out checks on each RCD before testing to confirm correct wiring, installation, and operation.</li> </ul>	1L	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow standard procedures: Always adhere to the established testing procedures for RCDs as outlined in Australian Standards, industry guidelines, and manufacturer recommendations.</li> <li>- Warning signs: Display suitable cautionary signage around the area where RCD testing is taking place to alert others of potential hazards and to maintain a safe distance.</li> <li>- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Provide and require workers to wear appropriate safety gear during RCD testing, such as safety glasses, gloves, and protective footwear.</li> <li>- Safe isolation: Ensure the RCD is isolated from the main power supply during testing to eliminate the risk of electric shock or other incidents arising from energised equipment.</li> <li>- Post-testing checks: After completion of the test, conduct a thorough inspection of the RCD to ensure all connections are secure and it functions correctly before returning it to service.</li> <li>- Documentation: Record the test results, including any identified faults or issues, and report them to site management. Keep records of tests according to the relevant regulatory requirements.</li> <li>- Faulty equipment protocol: If an RCD is found to be faulty during testing, follow the organisation's established procedure for handling defective equipment, such as taking it out of service, notifying responsible parties, and arranging for repair or replacement.</li> <li>- Emergency response plan: Develop and implement an emergency response plan that covers potential accidents or incidents during RCD testing, including first aid, emergency shutdown procedures, and communication protocols. Ensure all workers involved are well-trained in these procedures.</li> </ul>		
4. Visual Inspection	Poor visibility, Obstructed access	2M	<div>██</div> <div>██</div> <div>██</div> <div>██</div> <div>██</div>	1L	

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
			[Redacted]		
5. Equipment Setup	Defective cords, Overloaded circuits	2M	[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]	1L	





[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
10. RCD Maintenance	Malfunctioning equipment Poor workplace conditions	2M		1L	

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11. Training for Employees	Inadequate training materials, Untrained workers	3H		2M	

[illegible]

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SAMPLE



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

### Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

## SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Position	Signature	Date	Time	Supervisor
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		

## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

**The SWMS must be reviewed regularly** to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are needed. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

**The SWMS must be monitored regularly** for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	TO BE DONE	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Names and signatures of all relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) columns completed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed are noted on the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training, skills required to perform the work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lists any required permits or licenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY		DATE REVIEWED	
SIGNATURE		DATE COMPLETED	