

# Workplace Hazards in Highly Automated Industry

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

**Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.**

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Powered and non-powered tools	Electrocution  Being struck by drill bits, cutters, swarf (potential for serious eye, head or facial injury)  Cuts and lacerations	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ♦ Provide instruction in safe use of hand tools	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ♦ Use hand tools carefully, according to your instructions
Working with automated machines including robots	Crushing  Laceration and amputation  Damage to equipment	<b>Students must NOT operate automated machines</b>	<b>Students must NOT operate automated machines</b>
Mobile plant	Falls from height – potential for fatality or serious injury	<b>Students must NOT operate mobile plant</b>	<b>Students must NOT operate mobile plant</b>
Electricity	Electrocution or electric shock	<b>Students must NOT undertake any task which may place them at risk from electrical sources</b>	<b>Students must NOT undertake any task which may place them at risk from electrical sources</b>
Hazardous substances  Dangerous Goods	Contact with hazardous substances could harm operator's health  Incorrect storage or handling of dangerous goods can result in fatality or serious physical injury	♦ Assess the work area before work begins ♦ Provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ♦ Document and communicate emergency procedures ♦ Establish First Aid arrangements	♦ Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions ♦ Use PPE provided to protect you against hazardous substances
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward posture)	Musculoskeletal disorders, including sprains and strains	♦ Schedule regular breaks ♦ Provide mechanical aids as practicable ♦ Encourage team lifting	♦ Use mechanical aids provided ♦ Seek help when you think a team lift is required ♦ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Working in processes generating heat	Heat rashes, heat cramps, heat stress, dehydration	♦ Provide regular rest breaks, and fluids (water) ♦ Schedule work to limit exposure to extreme heat ♦ Require appropriate clothing and PPE	♦ Take regular rest breaks, and fluids (water) ♦ Wear appropriate clothing and PPE
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	♦ Establish work place policy ♦ Provide staff briefings or training	♦ Report any concerns immediately

