

Workplace Hazards in Manufacturing

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
Fixed plant	Amputation and laceration Manual handling injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Undertake risk assessment of all plant and machines ◆ Put in place appropriate risk controls – e.g. machine guarding ◆ Provide relevant training on safe use ◆ Develop and implement maintenance regime. Ensure records are kept ◆ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Work strictly according to training and instructions ◆ Do not operate any plant in which you have not been fully trained ◆ If you have any safety concerns, notify your supervisor immediately!
Powered mobile plant including forklift	Being struck, rolled on or pinned underneath – potential for fatality or serious injury	Students must NOT operate mobile plant	Students must NOT operate mobile plant
Powered and other hand-tools	Laceration and amputation Manual handling injuries	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide instruction in the safe use of tools 	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use hand tools carefully, according to instructions
Noise and vibration	Hearing loss Musculoskeletal disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain powered tools and mobile plant to reduce noise and to avoid excessive vibration ◆ Provide PPE (hearing protection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Follow safe work procedures ◆ Wear PPE (hearing protection) provided
Industrial chemicals (hazardous substances) Cleaning products	Skin contact may cause irritation or dermatitis Vapours/fumes may cause headaches or other respiratory problems. Long-term exposure may cause chronic effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use least hazardous products Provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ◆ Observe appropriate storage and handling practices of dangerous goods ◆ Provide adequate ventilation ◆ Document and rehearse emergency procedures ◆ Provide appropriate PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Document safe work procedures ◆ Provide mechanical aids ◆ Provide training in safe manual handling techniques ◆ Encourage team lifts where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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 heat and cold	Heat rashes, heat stress, dehydration Hypothermia (in cold rooms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Schedule rest breaks, rotate jobs ◆ Provide appropriate clothing/PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observe rest breaks ◆ Wear appropriate clothing
Working at heights	Falls from heights – potential for fatality or serious injury Musculoskeletal injuries such as sprains and strains	Students must NOT work at heights or where there is any risk of a fall	Students must NOT work at heights or where there is any risk of a fall
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report any concerns immediately

