

# Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Control (HIRAC) for Manual Handling Tasks

Risk, Health and Safety

## 1 Introduction

SCHOOL / CENTRE	<input type="text"/>	CAMPUS	<input type="text"/>
TASK UNDER REVIEW	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
PEOPLE CONDUCTING REVIEW	<i>School or Centre Management Representative</i>		
	<input type="text"/>		
	<i>Health and Safety Representative</i>		
	<input type="text"/>		
	<i>Employees who perform task</i>		
	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
REASON FOR REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	A report of musculoskeletal disorder is associated with this existing task	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff have expressed OHS concerns about this existing task	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New OHS information has become available in relation to this existing task	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes are being made to this existing task, object, tool, etc	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	A new manual handling task is being introduced into the workplace	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: .....	

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## HIRAC Table for Manual Handling Tasks

Section 2a: Identify Risks – Long Duration Tasks	Comments
<p><b>Step A: If the task is performed for more than 2 hours over a whole shift, OR continually for more than 30 minutes at a time, go to Steps B and C below. If not, go directly to Section 2b overleaf.</b></p>	
<p><b>Step B: Tick the relevant box(es) if the task requires any of the following actions to be done more than twice a minute (repetitive) OR more than 30 seconds at a time (sustained):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bending the back forwards or sideways more than 20 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Twisting the back more than 20 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Backward bending of the back more than 5 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bending the head forwards or sideways more than 20 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Twisting the neck more than 20 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bending the head backwards more than 5 degrees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Working with one or both hands above shoulder height</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reaching forwards or sideways more than 30 cm from the body</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reaching behind the body</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Squatting, kneeling, crawling, lying, semi-lying or jumping</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Standing with most of the body's weight on one leg</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Twisting, turning, grabbing, picking or wringing actions with the fingers, hands or arms</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Working with the fingers close together or wide apart</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very fast movements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Excessive bending of the wrist</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Step C: Tick the relevant box(es) if the task requires the application of force whilst:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lifting or lowering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carrying with one hand or one side of the body</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exerting force with one hand or one side of the body</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pushing, pulling or dragging</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gripping with the fingers pinched together or held wide apart</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exerting force while in an awkward posture (e.g. supporting items while arms or shoulders are in an awkward posture)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moving items while legs are in an awkward posture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Holding, supporting or restraining any object, person, animal or tool</li> </ul>	

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Section 2b: Identify Risks – High Forces	Comments
<p><b>Tick the relevant box(es) if the task involves any of the following high force actions, even if force is applied only once</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lifting, lowering or carrying heavy loads</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Applying uneven, fast or jerky forces during lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Applying sudden or unexpected forces (e.g. when handling a person or animal)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pushing or pulling objects that are hard to move or to stop (e.g. a trolley)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using a finger-grip, a pinch-grip or an open-handed grip to handle a heavy or large load</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exerting force at the limit of the grip span</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Needing to use two hands to operate a tool designed for one hand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Throwing or catching</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hitting or kicking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Holding, supporting or restraining a person, animal or heavy object</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jumping while holding a load</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exerting force with the non-preferred hand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two or more people need to be assigned to handle a heavy or bulky load</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exerting high force while in an awkward posture (refer to Section 2a, Step B for guidance on awkward postures)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Tick the relevant box(es) if the employees performing the task report any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pain or significant discomfort during or after the task</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The task can only be done for short periods</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stronger employees are assigned to do the task</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Employees think task should be done by more than one person, or seek help to do task</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Employees say the task is physically very strenuous or difficult to do</li> </ul>	

### 3 Risk Assessment

If any box has been ticked in Section 2a and/or 2b, the task presents a risk of injury. In addition, this injury risk may be aggravated by environmental conditions:

Compounding Risk Factors – Environmental	Compounding Risk Factor – Injury Experience		
<p><b>Tick the relevant box(es) if the task involves any of the following compounding risk factors</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vibration (hand-arm or whole-body)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High temperatures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Radiant heat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High humidity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Low temperatures</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wearing protective clothing while working in hot conditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wearing thick clothing while working in cold conditions (e.g. gloves)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handling very cold or frozen objects</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Working in hot conditions and are not used to it</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vibration (hand-arm or whole-body)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High temperatures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Radiant heat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High humidity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Low temperatures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wearing protective clothing while working in hot conditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wearing thick clothing while working in cold conditions (e.g. gloves)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handling very cold or frozen objects</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Working in hot conditions and are not used to it</li> </ul>
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<p>The report of a Musculo Skeletal Disorder (MSD) associated with the task usually means increased risk so implementing risk controls should be a high priority. In such cases, a documented risk control plan is mandatory.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has there been a report of a MSD associated with this task?</p>			

*Note: By law, risks of manual handling injuries must be eliminated or controlled as far as is practicable. Generally, the greater the number of boxes ticked in Sections 2 and 3, the higher the risk of injury. And the higher the risk of injury, the greater the need for a documented risk control plan.*

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## 4 Risk Control Plan

Note: A combination of risk control measures may be required to decrease risk as far as practicable.

1. Can you stop doing the task or part of the task to eliminate the risk?  Yes (document below how this will be achieved)  No, or only part of it
2. Can you eliminate or reduce the risk by doing one or more of these things? (Document the actions below and consider what information, instruction, training and supervision may be necessary to make these controls work properly.)
  - a) altering the workplace
  - b) altering the environmental conditions
  - c) altering the systems of work
  - d) changing the objects used in the task, or
  - e) using mechanical aids
3. Can you reduce the risk with information, instruction, training and supervision? (Document below)

### Short-term (immediately to within a few weeks)

Action required	Person responsible	Completion date	Reviewed date	Action completed

### Medium-term (within a few weeks to a couple of months)

Action required	Person responsible	Completion date	Reviewed date	Action completed

### Long-term (within several months)

Action required	Person responsible	Completion date	Reviewed date	Action completed

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