



Overview – Implementing the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015: Better Regulation – Plant, Structures and Working at Heights

We're looking at how risks involving plant (machines, equipment, vehicles, tools), structures, heights and excavations are managed at work because ...

They're everywhere and affect everyone – they are used in lots of different sectors and types of work, from agriculture and construction to education and health. They affect workers, businesses, and other people interacting with that work

Businesses and workers need a better framework to manage these risks well – The regulatory framework is weak, ad hoc, out of date, full of gaps, and is hard to understand

They kill and severely injure lots of people everyday – plant or structures are involved in 76% of work related deaths

- Do you work with these risks?
- Do you run a business that involves these risks?
- Tell us what you think.

The problems include ...

Some of the rules aren't clear or there is confusion – so there is over-compliance and increased costs

E.g. work at heights, scaffolding and excavation work

Most of these risks have been around forever and they're **still not being done well**, or we need to ensure that they keep being done well

E.g. badly guarded machines, good design of structures and machines, high-risk plant

We need to keep up with **changes in practice and emerging technology** to ensure benefits are realised and any risks are managed

E.g. automated machines and industrial robots

Our ideas to make the framework better include ...

Making the rules **clear**, while retaining **flexibility** to do what's best in each case

E.g. across all areas

Improving **risk assessment and management**

E.g. across all areas

Making sure people have the **right information** to ensure health and safety at work

E.g. designers, manufacturers etc providing information

Improving **oversight and transparency** of very high risk things

E.g. register of high-risk plant items and designs

Details about options for each area of the discussion paper are over the page

You'll be interested in the discussion paper if you work or run a business that involves plant, structures, heights or excavations. Local bodies, members of Māori, Pasifika and ethnic communities, health and safety specialists, and schools and training providers will also be interested.

Tell us what you think about the more detailed options set out below.

How can we support businesses to keep workers and others healthy and safe around **plant and mobile plant** in the workplace?

Options include:

- applying the Prescribed Risk Management process to all plant and specific risks from mobile plant
- ensuring guarding and safety features are used properly on machines
- improving risk management throughout the lifecycle of plant
- ensuring alterations and modifications don't increase risks
- operator protection, passenger safety, and traffic requirements for all mobile plant (e.g. vehicles, quad bikes, tractors, forklifts)

How do we make sure plant and structures are **designed, manufactured, etc** without risks to health and safety?

Options include:

- improving information sharing and hazard/risk identification throughout the supply chain
- requiring people requesting designs of plant and structures to give information to help eliminate and minimise risks
- making requirements for designing and manufacturing guarding and safety features of plant clearer

Should there be a central register for the riskiest equipment with potential for catastrophic harm (**high-risk plant**)?

Options include:

- registering plant designs for specified types of plant (e.g. tower cranes, pressure equipment, amusement devices, boilers)
- registering individual items of high-risk plant (e.g. boilers, tower cranes, passenger ropeways)
- including a broader range of plant – hoists, boom elevating work platforms, forestry plant, concrete booms
- retaining current accreditation and inspection requirements for individual items of plant
- reviewing territorial authorities' involvement in permitting amusement devices

How do we make **work at heights and scaffolding** requirements clearer to reduce compliance costs?

Options include:

- applying the Prescribed Risk Management process to all work at heights
- Introducing a mandatory hierarchy of controls for work at heights in construction
- excluding work under a certain height and of short duration from some or all of the hierarchy of control
- requiring a competent person to construct scaffolding over 4m, and monthly inspections
- retaining notifications for scaffolding

How do we make **excavation work** requirements clearer and consistent with good practice?

Options include:

- applying the Prescribed Risk Management process
- managing specific risks from falling in, collapse, falling objects, and airborne contaminants
- preventing unauthorised access
- minimising risks of collapse for trenches deeper than 1.5m
- requiring checking for underground services