



Abattoir safety: checklist

This checklist is a tool to assist duty holders and persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) to manage work health and safety (WHS) risks associated with work carried out in abattoirs and other workplaces where meat processing occurs.

This checklist should not be relied upon to ensure compliance with all requirements set out in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act) and *Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022* (WHS General Regulations).

Checklist

| General WHS management | |
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| | Workers received adequate safety induction and task-specific training in relation to WHS |
| | Induction, information and training are provided in a format that will enable understanding (e.g. in the appropriate language) |
| | Safe operating procedures have been developed and implemented |
| | Emergency procedures are understood |
| | Mobile or other means of communication is available |
| Risk management process | |
| | Hazards have been identified |
| | The risk of injury has been assessed where necessary |
| | Control measures have been implemented so far as is reasonably practicable |
| | Control measures are monitored to ensure effectiveness |
| Hazard and injury reporting | |
| | Systems are in place for reporting hazards and injuries |
| | Systems are in place for reporting notifiable incidents to WorkSafe |
| | Reported hazards and injuries are investigated |
| Consultation and representation | |
| | Workers are consulted about WHS matters |
| | Where more than one PCBU is involved in the work, systems are in place for effective communication and consultation regarding WHS (e.g. a labour hire employer regularly visits and inspects the workplace, meets workers to ensure that WHS issues are being effectively managed, and meets a representative of the host PCBU to jointly take action on issues) |

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| | Health and safety representatives elected as per the WHS Act, if requested by a worker |
| | Health and safety representatives trained as per the WHS Act |
| | A health and safety committee is in place if requested |
| Knife safety | |
| | A risk assessment has been conducted for knife and cutting tool selection |
| | Workers receive adequate training on working safely with knives |
| | Policies and procedures for working safely with knives are implemented, and worker compliance is monitored |
| | Knives are stored securely when not in use |
| | Knife condition is monitored (e.g. supervisor checks, systems for worker self-checks, issuance and collection systems, database of knife serial numbers) |
| | Damaged or worn knives are replaced promptly |
| | Unserviceable knives are removed from the workplace |
| Manual tasks | |
| | Repetitive manual tasks have been minimised through good work design (e.g. task rotation) so far as is reasonably practicable |
| | Mechanical aids are used to lift heavy objects where practicable |
| | Where mechanical assistance is not practicable, correct lifting techniques are used (e.g. multi-person lifts) |
| | Objects that are heavy, bulky or awkward to lift or handle are stored on shelves between knee and chest height |
| | There are alternative ways of retrieving objects stored above workers' shoulder heights (e.g. platforms) |
| Layout, flooring and level changes | |
| | Floors and other surfaces are designed, installed and maintained to allow work to be carried out without risk to health and safety (e.g. not slippery when wet) |
| | Floors have adequate drainage |
| | Physical barriers are used to prevent entry to floor areas that should not be accessed by workers |
| | Railing is installed at level changes where practicable |
| | Holes or openings in floors are guarded or otherwise controlled |
| | Steps and ledges are visually differentiated from other flooring using colour, edging or bull nosing |
| | Handrails are installed next to steps or stairs |
| | Hazardous floor sections (e.g. changes in level) are clearly demarcated by contrasting floor paint colours, edging, signage, tape and barricades as appropriate |
| Plant | |
| | Inspections and any necessary testing of plant are carried out by a competent person in accordance with manufacturer's or a competent person's recommendations |
| Guarding | |
| | Physical guards (e.g. barriers to prevent access, presence-sensing devices) are compliant with regulation 208 of the WHS General Regulations and are in place for all automated and semi-automated plant |
| | Guards are inspected on a regular basis |
| | Workers are physically isolated from interference from other workers while using manual plant such as hock cutters and bandsaws |
| | Where reasonably practicable, bandsaws are equipped with presence-sensing devices |

| Emergency stops | |
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| | Emergency stop controls are installed on plant and cannot be adversely affected by electrical or electronic circuit malfunctions |
| | Emergency stop controls are located so that they can be immediately accessed by each plant operator in an emergency |
| | Emergency stop controls are clearly and durably marked, prominent and coloured red |
| | Where there are multiple emergency stop controls for plant (e.g. augers, conveyors), an emergency stop locks the plant off until reset (i.e. 'stop and lock-off') |
| Plant controls | |
| | Plant controls are clearly labelled to indicate the nature, function and direction of operation |
| | The locations of plant controls allow operators to readily and conveniently operate plant |
| | Guarding or the location of controls prevent unintentional activation of plant |
| | Plant controls can be locked into 'off' position to disconnect power |
| Mobile plant | |
| | Pre-start checks for all mobile plant are completed and documented as per manufacturer instructions |
| | Mobile plant is maintained as per manufacturer's instructions |
| | Worn or damaged mobile plant is repaired or replaced |
| | A traffic management plan is implemented and includes measures to manage plant and pedestrian interaction, including physically separating pedestrian and plant operation areas or using barriers where practicable |
| | Where there is a residual risk of mobile plant colliding with a pedestrian, the plant has a warning device to warn persons who may be at risk from the movement of the plant |
| | Mobile plant operators are verified as having the appropriate licences, training and competencies |
| | Attachments are rated and are used with appropriate mobile plant (i.e. designed and approved for use with the attachment) |
| Fall prevention | |
| | Fall restraint systems are installed where engineering control measures (e.g. railing) cannot be implemented |
| | Where work is completed in a cyclical workstation, shuttle systems are used to allow movement of workers with fall restraint systems |
| | All fall protection equipment (e.g. harnesses, connections, fittings) is rated, tested, and within service life |
| Hazardous chemicals | |
| | Safety data sheets (SDS) are current, accessible, and located near chemical use and storage areas |
| | Chemicals are stored per the SDS requirements (e.g. on bunding, protected from weather, ventilation) |
| | Personal protective equipment is provided as per the SDS and, where applicable, supported by risk assessment |
| | Emergency eyewash and shower stations are available as per the SDS requirements, and located near chemical use and storage areas |
| | Emergency eyewash and shower stations undergo appropriate testing via a competent person (i.e. weekly flush testing, annual flow rate testing, serviceability testing) |
| | Emergency eyewash and shower stations are adequately maintained |

| Electrical safety | |
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| | Electrical equipment is tested and tagged regularly by a competent person in accordance with AS/NZS 3760 |
| | Residual current devices are tested regularly by a competent person |
| | Records of testing are kept until equipment or devices are next tested, permanently removed from the workplace or disposed of |
| | Domestic-rated equipment is not available for use in industrial areas (e.g. power boards, leads) |
| | Isolation and locking out procedures have been implemented and are followed by workers |
| | Workers are instructed that mounting blocks are to be used to stand on when mounting horses |
| Corrosion management | |
| | A system has been implemented for corrosion management and can be applied to all relevant aspects of the workplace including structures, fixtures, plant and mobile plant |
| | Protective coatings are used on surfaces that may rust |
| | Corrosion inspections, cleaning and maintenance are conducted regularly |
| | Life expectancy of plant and structures is documented and replacement forms part of a proactive maintenance program |
| First aid | |
| | A risk assessment has been conducted to determine first aid requirements, taking into account the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature of the work being carried out at the workplace • nature of the hazards at the workplace • size and location of the workplace, and • the number and composition of the workers and other persons at the workplace |
| | First aid procedures are documented and implemented |
| | First aid training is provided in accordance with requirements determined by risk assessment |
| | The number of trained first aid personnel is adequate for the number and composition of workers and others at the workplace, the level of risk and location |
| | First aid kits and equipment are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • available and accessible to all workers • monitored and maintained • suitable for the nature of the work and level of risk, and • adequate for responding to workers' existing medical conditions (e.g. allergies, asthma) |
| Other | |
| | Lighting is adequate for the tasks being undertaken |
| | Workers are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. eye protection, cut-resistant gloves, aprons, safety shoes, hair nets, respirators) as determined by risk assessment |
| | A Q-fever vaccination program is in place where at-risk animals are processed (e.g. sheep, cattle, goats, kangaroos, camels) |
| | The workplace induction addresses physical hazards, psychosocial hazards, health hazards (e.g. zoonoses) and communication and reporting protocols |