



Australian Government

RIIWHS204 Work safely at heights

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in RII Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to work safely at heights in the resources and infrastructure industries where the worker has the potential to fall from one level to another, and the work-at-height task involves the risk of people and objects falling from heights. This unit of competency does not cover the erection of scaffolds or work platforms.

It applies to those:

- working in operational roles who generally work under supervision to complete a range of functions involving known routines and procedures and take responsibility for the quality of work outcomes
- performing harness-based work at heights under the direct supervision of a height safety supervisor.

Note: The terms Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Work Health and Safety (WHS) are equivalent and generally either can be used in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the National Model WHS Legislation has not been implemented RTOs are advised to contextualise the unit of competency by referring to the existing State/Territory OHS legislative requirements.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

N/A

Unit sector(s)

Civil construction

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Required knowledge, skills and application should be considered and clearly articulated.</i>
1. Plan and prepare for working at heights	1.1 Confirm the work-at-heights task, work location, method of access, and required equipment with relevant site personnel 1.2 Consult with relevant site personnel to confirm the permit to work, relevant safety planning documentation, including safe work method statements (SWMS), job safety analyses (JSA) or equivalents, and safe operating procedures (SOP) or safe working instructions (SWI) and rescue plan requirements before commencing work at height 1.3 Verify all control measures specified in permit and SWMS/JSA are in place and effective in accordance with work health and safety (WHS) requirements and worksite instructions 1.4 Confirm safe access, egress, and rescue arrangements with site personnel in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 1.5 Confirm with relevant site personnel whether a standby person/safety observer will be present for harness-based work or ensure another method of control is in place to initiate an effective rescue in the event of a fall in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 1.6 Identify and confirm anchor point locations that allow safe access to the work area in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 1.7 Wear designated personal protective equipment (PPE) prescribed by site signage and SWMS/JSA or equivalents after confirming serviceability, in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite or manufacturer instructions 1.8 Confirm emergency procedures and emergency response plan, including rescue procedures, is appropriate for the task and location in accordance with WHS requirements
2. Assess work area and implement risk controls	2.1 Confirm fall protection systems, scaffolds and barriers are correctly installed and certified where required in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 2.2 Verify risk controls in the permit, SWMS/JSA (or their equivalents) are adequate and report any additional hazards to relevant

	site personnel in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 2.3 Install signs and barriers to prevent people being struck by falling objects in accordance with the permit, SWMS/JSA (or their equivalents) 2.4 Ensure a rescue plan and rescue equipment are in place where there is a risk of suspension in a harness in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 2.5 Check all height safety PPE is free from damage, within service date, and fit for use in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions
3. Access work area and prepare for work at height	3.1 Move and place tools, equipment and materials using methods that eliminate or minimise the risk of falling objects in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 3.2 Access the work area safely without creating fall or dropped object risks in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 3.3 Connect to fall protection equipment, including temporary anchor points, without exposure to fall risk in accordance with WHS requirements, manufacturer instructions and worksite instructions 3.4 Tether or secure all tools, equipment and materials to prevent them from falling in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions
4. Perform work at heights	4.1 Perform tasks in accordance with the working at height permit, SWMS/JSA (or their equivalents) in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 4.2 Keep fall protection equipment correctly fitted and adjusted to allow safe movement in accordance with WHS requirements, manufacturer requirements and worksite instructions 4.3 Handle materials and equipment as specified in the permit, SWMS/JSA (or their equivalents) in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 4.4 Position, secure and evenly distribute materials and equipment to prevent falls and overloading work areas in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 4.5 Regularly check anchorage points, confirm lifelines are tensioned, and ensure all items remain secure in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 4.6 Monitor hazards, including weather, ground and site conditions and suspend work if controls become ineffective in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions

5. Clean up work area	5.1 Remove temporary safety measures within scope of authority in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 5.2 Tidy the work area and remove, store, recycle, or dispose of waste materials in accordance with worksite instructions 5.3 Inspect the plant, tools, and equipment for damage and wear before cleaning and storing and report any faults in accordance with WHS requirements, manufacturer requirements and worksite instructions 5.4 Make the work area safe on completion of task in accordance with the requirements of the permit and SWMS/JSA (or their equivalents)
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Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for RIIWHS204 Work safely at heights

Performance Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate the ability to complete the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit, including evidence of the ability to:

- work safely at heights on at least **two** occasions, including:
 - applying technical and safety information for working at heights
 - locating and following relevant safety planning document as per legislative requirements (safe work method statement [SWMS] or job safety analysis [JSA], and safe operating procedures (SOP) or safe working instructions (SWI)
 - confirming permit and/or SWMS/JSA control measures are implemented and effective before starting work
 - inspecting, and using designated personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with manufacturer instructions and site procedures
 - identifying required safety systems, including fall protection and associated equipment
 - ensuring fall protection equipment is correctly fitted, tensioned and anchored
 - performing work safely at heights in a manner that protects own safety and those around and below.

During the above, the candidate must:

- verify permit and/or SWMS/JSA is current, authorised and task-specific before starting work
- implement the requirements, procedures and techniques for working safely at heights specified in the permit and/or SWMS/JSA
- work effectively with others to work safely at heights in a way that meets all required outcomes
- communicate clearly and concisely with others to receive and clarify work instructions and to determine coordination requirements before commencing and during work activities.

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge to complete the tasks outlined in the elements, performance criteria and foundation skills of this unit, including knowledge of:

- key regulations, including work health and safety (WHS) standards and codes of practice (Queensland and Victoria only) or compliance codes (all other states and territories) required to work safely at heights
- permit to work systems and safe work method statements (SWMS) or job safety assessment (JSA) relevant to working safely at heights

- safety features of personal protective equipment (PPE) and when and how it should be used
- principles and techniques to work safely at heights, including:
 - risk assessment processes and the hierarchy of control as applied to working at heights
- common hazards associated with working at heights, including:
 - overhead power lines
 - unprotected edges
 - fragile surfaces
 - falling objects
 - environmental conditions that may affect safety when working at heights
- control measures for common hazards, including:
 - edge protection
 - fall prevention systems
 - fall arrest systems
 - securing tools and materials to prevent falling objects
- types, function and limitations of typical height safety equipment, including:
 - fall arrest systems
 - fall restraint systems
 - scaffolds and guardrails
 - edge protection systems
 - tool lanyards and containment systems
- principles and techniques for complying with equipment manufacturer instructions and specifications, including:
 - inspection, maintenance and service intervals
 - using equipment within rated capacities
 - applying correct fitting, anchoring and storage methods
- safe shifting and handling of tools and materials
- emergency response and rescue procedures relevant to working at heights
- techniques for communicating job activities with others
- the role of supervision in ensuring safe work at heights.

Assessment Conditions

Mandatory conditions for assessment of this unit are stipulated below. The assessment must:

- include access to:
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - equipment related to working safely at heights
 - relevant documentation
- be conducted in a safe environment; and,
- be assessed in the context of this sector's work environment; and,
- be assessed in compliance with relevant legislation/regulation and using policies, procedures and processes directly related to the industry sector for which it is being assessed; and,
- confirm consistent performance can be applied in a range of relevant workplace circumstances.

Assessor Requirements

In addition to the requirements in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards, assessors and industry experts must also have a minimum of two (2) years industry experience, directly relevant to the training and assessment being provided.

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights	Equivalent	Supersedes and is equivalent.

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://training.gov.au/training/details/RII>.