

Developing Safe Farming Practices

Guide 2: How to complete a risk assessment



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Managing health and safety on farms is essential to ensure that you, your workers, family members and others are safe at work. Completing a risk assessment is an important part of health and safety management.

WHY carry out a risk assessment?

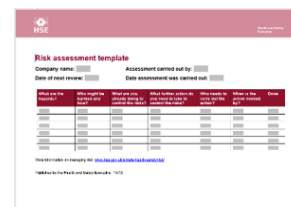
- To help you identify the causes of injuries and ill health, eliminate hazards and control risks.
- Comply with the law. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 place duties on employers and the self-employed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to their own health and safety and that of others from the work they do.

WHO should carry out a risk assessment?

- This guidance is relevant to everyone working on farms, whether employer, employee or self-employed.
- You can carry out the risk assessment yourself and in many cases you will know the risks in your business best, or you could appoint one of your workers or someone from outside your business (you can find consultants using the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR)).



HOW to complete a risk assessment



- The HSE website has a risk assessment template and examples to help you produce your own. Tailor the risk assessment so that hazards specific to your agricultural business have been covered.

1. **Identify hazards** in the workplace. Think about daily and non-routine operations. Involve employees as they may have spotted something you have not noticed. Consider long-term health hazards as well as obvious safety hazards.

any previous accidents	slips and trips	electrical
machinery	falling objects	asbestos
livestock	vehicle movements	lighting
fire	compressed air	chemicals and hazardous substances
manual handling	working at height	dust
moving heavy objects	confined spaces	hygiene
lone working	noise	stress

2. **Who might be harmed and how?** For each hazard you need to be clear about who might be harmed, eg employees, contractors and family (including children). Work out how they might be harmed, eg crush injuries from machinery and livestock, unguarded moving parts on machinery or long-term health problems from breathing in grain dust.
3. **Further action** Aim to eliminate the hazard altogether, where this is not possible take steps to control the risk. For each hazard – what are you currently doing to control the risk and what more is needed to comply with the law (see www.hse.gov.uk for more advice).
4. **Share** your risk assessment findings – Make sure everyone who works on your farm knows about the results of your assessment and understands the controls you have put in place. Share information about hazards and risks with those who need it.
5. **Check** controls stay in place and review the assessment – Changes in working practices/procedures and new machinery come with different hazards that need to be addressed and action taken to eliminate/reduce the associated risk as soon as possible. It may also be helpful to set an annual risk assessment review date.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg270.htm	Farmwise – Your essential guide to health and safety in agriculture
https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/risk-assessment-template-and-examples.htm	Risk assessment template and examples
www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/	Managing risks and risk assessment at work
www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox	How to control risk at work

