



Risk assessment and method statement

Bricklaying RAMS

Brickwork and blockwork from scaffold and platforms. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY		RAMS REFERENCE	
Brickwork and blockwork from scaffold and platforms			
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Construction of [external facing brickwork / blockwork / internal partitions] to the drawings, including damp proof courses, wall ties, cavity trays, lintels, insulation and pointing. Block type and weight: [type, kg]. Built from [scaffold ref / trestles]. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

Site access via [gate]. Materials landed at [area] and loaded out to [loading bay refs] by [telehandler / hoist]. Mixer and cutting station at [location]. Welfare and eyewash at [location]. Working hours [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATE

DURATION

WORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Scaffolding contractor: [name], for lifts, loading bays and alterations. Other trades working below and beside the walls: [trades], kept out of exclusion zones. Site manager: [name], for the building sequence and wall props.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Drawings and specification [refs]. Scaffold design or compliance sheet and handover certificate [ref]. Temporary works design for wall props [ref]. Safety data sheets for cement, lime and cleaners. Construction phase plan.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Bricklayers		Blue Skilled Worker CSCS card (bricklaying NVQ level 2 or completed apprenticeship); apprentices on the Apprentice card, supervised.	
Supervisor		Experienced bricklayer with site supervision training.	
Saw operators		Trained on the cut-off saw and in changing and mounting discs.	
Telehandler drivers		CPCS or NPORS card for the machine.	
RPE wearers		Face fit tested for tight-fitting masks, and clean shaven where the mask seals.	

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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Before the day	Review drawings, specification and block weights. Agree the scaffold design, load class and loading bays with the scaffolder, and the building sequence and any wall props with the site manager.	Block weights checked against 20 kg; temporary works for freestanding walls; RAMS approved by the principal contractor.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, attend the induction, then brief the team on this RAMS, the scaffold handover, the cutting area and the wind limit for the day.	Briefing signed against this revision; cards and face fit records checked; scaffold inspection report seen.	Supervisor
Set out the work area	Set up the mixer, cutting station and material stacks on firm, level ground, with welfare and eyewash close by.	Cutting station away from others with water or extraction; mixer guards checked; exclusion zones barriered.	Supervisor
Load out	Land bricks, blocks and mortar onto loading bays or platforms by telehandler or hoist, and spread them along the lift.	Load class respected; banksman for each lift; no pallets on working lifts.	Labourers
Set out and first courses	Set out the walls, build footings in the trenches, lay damp proof courses and build the first courses from the ground or slab.	Supported trenches inspected that shift; gloves for mortar; blocks laid between knee and chest height where the platform allows.	Bricklayers
Build from scaffold	Build up each lift, fixing ties, cavity trays, lintels and insulation as the wall rises, and call the scaffolder to raise the lift.	Only scaffolders alter the scaffold; brick guards and toe boards kept; lintels placed by plant or planned team lift.	Bricklayers
Cutting	Cut units at the cutting station, using a splitter or bolster where it works and a wet or extracted saw where it does not.	Water suppression or extraction; FFP3 or better, face fit tested; hearing and eye protection.	Trained operator
Weather and stability	Check the forecast through the day. Prop or restrain freestanding walls as designed, and cover new work at the end of the shift.	Work stopped and the area cleared when wind makes walls or handling unsafe.	Supervisor
Point and clean down	Point or rake out joints, and clean facework with water or a brick cleaner as specified.	Cleaner used to its data sheet; gloves and eye protection; runoff kept out of drains.	Bricklayers
Clear up	Clear mortar droppings and waste from lifts, wash out the mixer, stack unused materials and hand the area back to the site manager.	Mixer isolated before washing out; waste lowered, never thrown; lifts left clear.	Supervisor

CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.

	LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY		
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1 to 4 low
 5 to 12 medium
 15 to 25 high

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Falls from scaffold	Bricklayers and labourers on working lifts, at loading bays and at the gap to the wall.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work only from scaffold with a handover certificate and a current inspection, with guard-rails, toe boards and brick guards in place. - Inside boards or the gap to the wall kept to the scaffold design as the wall rises; lift heights raised by the scaffolder, never by the team. - Loading bay gates closed except while materials are landed.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Falls from trestles and low platforms	Bricklayers building internal blockwork and low walls from trestles, hop-ups or staging.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Trestle platforms or towers with guard-rails, built to the instructions; housebuilder best practice limits unguarded trestles and hop-ups to 600 mm. - Platforms on firm, level ground, fully boarded and never extended with blocks, bricks or pallets. - Materials stacked so the walkway along the platform stays clear.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Overloading the scaffold	Everyone on and below the scaffold, if stacked bricks, blocks or mortar exceed its load class.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Load class agreed with the scaffolder for the bricklaying lifts and shown on the tag; heavy duty bays designed where needed. - Materials landed in small, spread loads over the standards, not stacked in one bay or against guard-rails. - Pallets landed only on a designed loading bay, never on a working lift.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Falling bricks, blocks and tools	Labourers, other trades and the public below the scaffold and loading bays.	4 x 4 = 16 High	- Brick guards or netting on working lifts, toe boards fitted, and nothing stacked above toe board height at the edge. - Exclusion zone below loading bays and working lifts, barriered and signed. - Nothing thrown or tipped from height; waste lowered by chute, hoist or skip.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Heavy blocks over 20 kg	Bricklayers lifting blocks repeatedly, often from low pallets up to high courses.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- The lightest block that meets the specification, agreed with the designer; HSE no longer recommends two people laying blocks over 20 kg. - Mechanical handling for dense and specialist blocks, such as a block grab or vacuum lifter on suitable plant. - Pallets raised and platforms set so blocks are laid between knee and chest height.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	Site manager
Manual handling of bricks, mortar and lintels	Labourers loading out, carrying mortar and lifting lintels and cavity trays.	4 x 2 = 8 Med	- Materials landed close to the work by telehandler or hoist; mortar moved by barrow or skip, not carried in tubs up ladders. - Heavy lintels and padstones placed by plant or lifting aid, or by a team lift planned for the weight. - Bags of cement and lime stored at waist height on pallets where possible.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Cement and wet mortar on skin	Bricklayers and labourers mixing mortar and handling wet bricks, from burns and dermatitis.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Waterproof gloves suitable for alkalis, such as EN 374 class K, long and close fitting at the wrist. - Mortar washed off skin straight away; warm water, soap and towels at the welfare unit, and skin care products. - Cement bags used within their shelf date so the chromium VI reducer still works.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Cement and lime in the eyes	Labourers loading the mixer and bricklayers pointing and cleaning down.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Eye protection when tipping bags, mixing and raking out. - Eyewash at the mixing area and on the scaffold; anyone splashed rinses at once and is checked by the first aider.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

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RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Silica dust from cutting brick and block	Bricklayers and labourers cutting units, and anyone working nearby.	4 x 4 = 16 High	- Fewer cuts by planning coursing and openings, cut units ordered from the supplier, and block splitters or bolsters where they work. - Cut-off saws with water suppression, or on-tool extraction to an M or H class unit; cutting in the open, away from others. - RPE of at least APF 20, such as FFP3, face fit tested, with users clean shaven where the mask seals.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	Supervisor
Cut-off saws and abrasive wheels	Operators cutting units, from kickback, wheel bursts and noise.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Only trained operators use and change discs; the right disc for the material, with the guard set correctly. - Units cut on a stand or bench, held firm, never across the knee or on the scaffold lift. - Hearing and eye protection worn; trigger time kept within the vibration assessment; cutting away from walkways.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Footings in trenches	Bricklayers and labourers laying blocks below ground in foundation trenches.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Trenches supported or battered where they could collapse; supported trenches inspected by a competent person at the start of each shift. - Spoil, blocks and plant kept back from the edge; barriers at the edge and a safe way in and out. - Trenches widened where needed so blocks are laid from inside, not by stooping from the edge.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Site manager
New walls collapsing in wind	Bricklayers and anyone near freestanding walls, gable peaks and party walls before they are tied in.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Building sequence planned so walls are tied in or restrained as they rise; freestanding walls propped to a temporary works design where needed. - Forecast checked daily; work stopped and the area cleared when wind makes the wall or handling unsafe. - Area beside tall freestanding walls fenced off until they are restrained.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Site manager
Mortar mixers	Labourers loading and cleaning drum or paddle mixers.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Guards in place over the drive and paddles; hands and shovels kept out of a turning drum. - Mixer switched off and isolated before cleaning or clearing; electric mixers on a 110V supply. - Mixer on level, firm ground, away from the edge of excavations.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Telehandlers and materials deliveries	Labourers, banksman and others near plant loading out to the scaffold.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Telehandler driven by a card holder for the machine, with its LOLER thorough examination in date. - Pallets landed on designed loading bays, with a banksman and the area below kept clear. - Pedestrians and plant separated, with a reversing banksman.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Brick cleaning chemicals	Bricklayers cleaning down finished facework with acid or proprietary cleaners.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Cleaner chosen from the manufacturer's data sheet, tested on a small area, and used at the stated dilution. - Chemical gloves, eye protection and overalls as the data sheet specifies; runoff kept out of drains.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Cuts and crush injuries to hands	Bricklayers handling sharp units, wall ties and steel lintels.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Gloves with good grip for handling; ties and mesh stored bundled, not loose on the lift. - Fingers kept clear when placing heavy units and lintels.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Slips and trips	Anyone on scaffold lifts, ground floor slabs and routes between the mixer and the work.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Mortar droppings and broken units cleared from lifts and walkways each day. - Banding, wrapping and pallets removed as they are emptied; routes kept clear and lit.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	

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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
Mortar mixer	Guards and stop switch checked before use; isolated to clean.	Trained user
Cut-off saw	Water suppression or extraction working; correct disc; guard set.	Trained operator
Block splitter	Blade and handle checked; on a level base.	Trained user
Telehandler	Pre-use check daily; LOLER thorough examination in date.	CPCS or NPORS card
Trestles and staging	Built to the instructions; boarded and checked before use.	Trained user

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☒	To site standard
Safety footwear	☒	Safety boots with grip sole
High-visibility clothing	☒	To site standard
Gloves	☒	Alkali resistant for mortar; grip gloves
Eye protection	☒	Mixing, cutting, raking out, cleaning
Hearing protection	☒	Cut-off saws and nearby work
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	FFP3 or better for cutting, face fit tested
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☐	

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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances

Each substance and its COSHH assessment.

COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6

SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS
Cement and wet mortar	[ref]	Alkali resistant gloves, eye protection, wash off at once; bags in date.
Hydrated lime	[ref]	Eye protection and gloves when tipping and mixing; eyewash at the mixer.
Silica dust from cutting brick, block and stone	[ref]	Fewer cuts; wet or extracted saw; FFP3 or better, face fit tested.
Brick cleaning acid or cleaner	[ref]	Dilute to the data sheet; chemical gloves and eye protection; runoff contained.

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☐	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☐	
Confined space entry	☐	
Lift plan	☒	
Temporary works design	☒	

Emergency and rescue

First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued.
The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.

First aider and first aid kit on site, with eyewash at the mixer and on the scaffold. Cement on skin is washed off at once, and a cement splash in the eye is rinsed straight away with medical advice sought. Plan for recovering an injured person from the scaffold. Nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing.

Environment and neighbours

Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.

Cutting water and slurry kept out of drains. Cement, lime and cleaner runoff contained. Waste units, bands and packaging removed from site and recycled where possible. Mixer washout to a designated area, never a drain.

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Briefed before the work starts

DATE AND TIME

A SIGNATURE AGAINST A REVISION, ON A DATE, BEFORE THE WORK STARTED, IS HOW A BRIEFING IS EVIDENCED

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