



Risk assessment and method statement

Drylining RAMS

Metal stud partitions, linings and ceilings. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY		RAMS REFERENCE	
Metal stud partitions, linings and ceilings			
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)

Metal stud partitions, wall linings, MF ceilings and suspended ceilings to [floors / areas] as drawn. Includes setting out, track, studs, insulation, boarding to [wall types / tested systems], ceiling grid and tiles, taping and jointing. Fire stopping by [name]. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

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

Access via [entrance]. Boards landed on each floor by [telehandler / hoist] and stored flat on bearers at [areas]. Work from [podium steps / tower]. Welfare 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

M&E contractors: [names], for first fix and testing before boarding. Fire stopping: [name], for penetrations before close-up. Site manager: [name], for storage areas, floor loads, hold points and occupied areas. Other trades kept out of ceiling work zones.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Drawings and wall and ceiling schedule [refs]. Tested system details for each fire-rated wall and ceiling. Ceiling system design [ref]. Asbestos survey [ref]. Services drawings. Safety data sheets. Construction phase plan.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Dryliners		Blue Skilled Worker CSCS card for drylining or ceiling fixing; apprentices on the Apprentice card, supervised.	
Supervisor		Experienced dryliner with site supervision training, who signs off the fire stopping hold points.	
Podium and tower users		PASMA Low Level Access training for podium steps; PASMA tower training for anyone erecting or moving a tower.	
Powered fixing tools		Trained on the cartridge or gas tool in use, and named for it.	
Fire-rated work		Briefed on each tested system in use; fire stopping by the person or contractor named in the RAMS.	

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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	Check the drawings, wall and ceiling types, fire ratings and tested systems, the asbestos survey for any strip-out, and the services drawings. Plan board deliveries, loading out and storage areas with the site manager.	Tested system details on site; floor loading agreed; RAMS accepted by the principal contractor.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, attend the induction, then brief the team on this RAMS, the access equipment, the fire-rated walls and the hold points before closing up.	Briefing signed against this revision; PASMA cards and tool training checked.	Supervisor
Load out and store boards	Land boards on each floor by telehandler or hoist, move them by trolley, and stack them flat on bearers in the agreed areas.	No boards on edge against walls; stacks clear of routes and openings; trolleys, not hand carries.	Supervisor
Set out and fix track	Set out the walls and ceiling lines, then fix head and floor tracks and ceiling hangers into the structure.	Podium steps or tower; extraction when drilling concrete; eye and hearing protection for powered fixings.	Dryliners
Studs and first fix	Fit studs, noggins and pattress boards for fixtures, then leave the walls open for the services to be installed and tested.	Service routes marked on the studs; grommets or protection where cables pass through.	Dryliners
Insulate and board walls	Fit acoustic insulation, then fix boards to the wall type, in the layers and screw centres the tested system sets, leaving openings where detailed.	Board lifter for bottom boards; boards cut on a table; gloves and sleeves for insulation.	Dryliners
Fix ceilings	Fix the MF grid and board it using a plasterboard lift, or hang and level the suspended ceiling grid, leaving tiles out until services are complete.	Area below barriered; nothing hung from the grid unless designed for it; nobody on the grid.	Ceiling fixers
Fire stopping hold point	Before the second side or the last tile goes in, check fire-rated walls, cavity barriers and penetrations against the tested system and record them.	Penetrations sealed by the named person; inspection and photographs handed to the site manager.	Supervisor
Tape, joint and sand	Tape and fill joints, then sand where the finish needs it, room by room with others kept out.	On-tool extraction to an L, M or H class unit; clean up by vacuum, never dry sweeping.	Tapers
Clear and hand over	Strike access, clear offcuts and packaging, fit the last tiles and access panels, and walk the area with the site manager.	Plasterboard offcuts kept separate for recycling; snagging and fire stopping records handed over.	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 podium steps and hop-ups	Dryliners and ceiling fixers fixing track, boards and grid at height, stepping on and off and reaching.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Podium steps with gates closed and brakes on for ceilings and high wall work; hop-ups kept to low, short tasks. - Platforms used to the manufacturer's instructions on a level floor cleared of offcuts, tracks and screws. - Platforms moved, not overreached from; nobody stands on stud packs, board stacks or buckets.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	Supervisor
Falls from mobile towers	Ceiling fixers working on high ceilings, atriums, stairwells and bulkheads.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Towers erected to the manufacturer's instructions by PASMA-trained people, with guard-rails, toe boards and castors locked. - Inspected after assembly in each position before use, and at least every 7 days where someone could fall 2 metres or more. - Never moved with anyone or anything on the platform; floor checked for openings and slopes first.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Board stacks falling	Dryliners and other trades taking boards from stacks, or walking past them.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Boards stored flat on bearers as the manufacturer directs, never stood on edge against walls or studs. - Stack heights and positions agreed with the site manager, so floors are not overloaded and routes stay clear. - Boards taken from the top of the stack; nobody works alone at a stack.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Manual handling of plasterboard	Dryliners and labourers loading out and carrying boards along corridors and up stairs.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Boards landed on each floor by telehandler or hoist before openings are closed; lightest board that meets the specification. - Board trolleys and pivoting board tables used to move and cut boards, with clear routes kept for them. - Where a hand carry cannot be avoided, two people with carrying aids, never one person with a full board.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	Supervisor
Fixing boards overhead	Dryliners lifting and holding boards to ceilings and high walls while fixing.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Plasterboard lift or adjustable props hold ceiling boards in position for fixing. - Foot-operated board lifter for the bottom board on walls, to avoid stooping. - Lightweight screwguns, and measuring and fixing shared between pairs to break up overhead work.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Ceiling grid or MF ceiling coming down	Ceiling fixers and anyone below a ceiling that is being installed or loaded.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	- Hangers and fixings to the system manufacturer's design for the ceiling weight and the soffit it fixes into. - No light fittings, diffusers or services hung from the grid unless the system and design allow it. - Nobody stands on, leans ladders against or climbs through a ceiling grid or a finished ceiling.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Falling materials during ceiling work	Other trades and occupants below grid, tiles, hangers and tools being fixed overhead.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Area below ceiling work barriered and signed, with others kept out until the grid is fixed. - Tiles and grid lengths passed up, not thrown; tools kept back from platform edges.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Cuts from knives, track and studs	Dryliners cutting boards and cutting or handling metal track, studs and angles.	4 x 2 = 8 Med	- Retractable or self-retracting board knives; blades changed often and disposed of in a blade bin. - Boards cut on trestles or a board table, cutting away from the body; never cut on edge. - Cut-resistant gloves for handling and cutting metal sections; snips and track cutters kept sharp.	2 x 2 = 4 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
Dust from sanding joints	Tapers and jointers sanding filled joints, and others working in the same room.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Sanding avoided where the finish allows, for example by careful wet finishing of joints. - Sanders with on-tool extraction to an L, M or H class unit of the right size and flow, with tight hose connections. - Extraction checked before use and thoroughly examined and tested at least every 14 months.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	Supervisor
Dust from cutting boards and drilling fixings	Dryliners power cutting boards, and drilling soffits, floors and walls for track and hangers.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Boards scored and snapped where possible; saws with on-tool extraction for cement and specialist boards. - Drilling concrete with on-tool extraction to an M or H class unit; RPE of APF 20, such as FFP3, face fit tested, for sustained drilling or without extraction. - Clean up with an M or H class vacuum or damp methods, never by dry sweeping.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Asbestos in existing ceilings and partitions	Dryliners stripping out, cutting into or fixing through older ceilings, tiles and partitions.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Asbestos survey checked before any strip-out or drilling in buildings built or refurbished before 2000. - Work stopped and the area left if suspect ceiling tiles, partition boards or textured coatings are found. - Removal only by trained workers under the asbestos plan, or by a licensed contractor where the work needs one.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Hidden cables and pipes	Dryliners screwing, drilling and cutting into walls and ceilings that already carry services.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Service routes marked on the studs before boarding, and a cable and pipe detector used before cutting into existing walls. - Cables passed through studs in grommets or protected as the electrician details; no screws along marked routes. - Circuits isolated and proved dead by a competent person before any strip-out near live services.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Powered fixing tools	Dryliners using screwguns, gas nailers and cartridge tools to fix track, and people close by.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Cartridge and gas tools used only by people trained on that tool, to the power tools RAMS. - Eye protection and hearing protection for the user and anyone nearby; nobody on the far side of the fixing. - Tools on 110V or battery supply, with trigger time planned for noise and vibration.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Fire-rated walls and ceilings not as tested	Future occupants and firefighters, if boards, layers, fixings or seals differ from the tested system.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Each fire-rated wall and ceiling built to its named tested system: boards, layers, stud size and centres, screws and sealant. - No penetration closed in until it is sealed with a product tested for that wall, by the person named for fire stopping. - Hold point before closing: walls inspected and photographed, and the record handed to the site manager.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Mineral wool insulation in partitions	Dryliners fitting acoustic insulation between studs and above ceilings, from skin and eye irritation.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Long sleeves and gloves while handling; eye protection when fitting overhead. - Slabs cut with a knife or hand saw, not a power saw; offcuts bagged as work proceeds. - Safety data sheet read and dust kept down; a dust mask to the data sheet, typically FFP1, in confined spaces or dusty work.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Slips and trips	Dryliners and others, on offcuts, track, screws, packaging and leads across floors.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Offcuts and packaging cleared to the skip as work proceeds; screws and track kept in boxes, not on the floor. - Leads and extraction hoses run along walls; work areas cleared at the end of each day.	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
Podium steps and hop-ups	Pre-use check; gates, brakes and locks working; level floor.	Trained user
Mobile tower	Built to the instructions; inspected after assembly and before use.	PASMA trained
Board trolleys and board tables	Wheels, brakes and frames checked; routes kept clear.	Trained user
Plasterboard lift and board lifter	Winch, cable and locks checked before use.	Trained user
Screwguns, gas nailers, cartridge tools	Checked before use; cartridges and gas locked away.	Trained, named user
Sanders and extraction unit	L, M or H class; hoses, filters and alarm checked.	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	☒	Where site rules require
Safety footwear	☒	To site standard
High-visibility clothing	☒	Where site rules require
Gloves	☒	Cut-resistant for metal and knives
Eye protection	☒	Overhead drilling, fixing tools, insulation
Hearing protection	☒	Cartridge tools, gas nailers, drilling
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	FFP3 for silica dust work without full extraction
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
Jointing compound and sanding dust	[ref]	On-tool extraction to an L, M or H class unit; vacuum, not sweep.
Silica dust from drilling concrete and cutting cement boards	[ref]	On-tool extraction to an M or H class unit; FFP3, face fit tested, for sustained work.
Mineral wool insulation	[ref]	Long sleeves, gloves, eye protection overhead; knife, not power saw; FFP1 if dusty.
Fire stopping sealants and adhesives	[ref]	Use to the safety data sheet; gloves; ventilation in small rooms.

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 for dust and debris in the eye. Plan for getting someone down from a tower. If boards fall on someone, stop work, call for help and the emergency services, and lift the boards off with enough people to do it safely. Nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing.

Environment and neighbours

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

Plasterboard offcuts kept separate from general waste for recycling. Metal offcuts to the metal skip. Packaging removed as work proceeds. Sanding dust collected by extraction, not swept. Floors and finished work protected and left clean at hand over.

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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

A pre-filled starting point, not legal advice. Edit it for the site and have it approved.