



Risk assessment and method statement

Plastering and rendering RAMS

Internal plastering and external rendering. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY		RAMS REFERENCE	
Internal plastering and external rendering			
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)

Preparation and plastering of [rooms / walls / ceilings] and rendering of [elevations] as specified. Includes hacking off where unsound, beads and mesh, bonding, [backing / finish / render] coats by [hand / spray machine]. Products to the specification [ref]. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

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

Access via [entrance]. Internal work from [hop-ups / podium steps / tower]. External work from scaffold [ref]. Mixing and spray machine at [location]. Materials stored at [area]. 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, sheeting and alterations. Site or building manager: [name], for access, occupied areas and noisy or dusty work. Other trades: [trades], kept out of wet areas and exclusion zones.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Specification and drawings [refs]. Safety data sheets and COSHH assessments for each product. Asbestos survey [ref]. Scaffold handover certificate and inspection report [ref]. Spray machine instructions. Construction phase plan.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Plasterers		Blue Skilled Worker CSCS card (plastering NVQ level 2 or completed apprenticeship); apprentices on the Apprentice card, supervised.	
Supervisor		Experienced plasterer with site supervision training.	
Tower users		PASMA training for anyone erecting or moving an aluminium tower.	
Spray machine operators		Trained on the machine, including pressure release and clearing blockages.	
RPE wearers		Face fit tested for tight-fitting masks, and clean shaven where the mask seals.	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 2 of 8
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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	Survey the walls and ceilings, check the asbestos survey and the age of the surfaces, choose the access equipment, and read the data sheets for each product. Agree scaffold, loading and spray machine siting.	COSHH assessments for each product; scaffold handover confirmed for render; RAMS approved before work.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, attend the induction, then brief the team on this RAMS, the products in use, the access equipment and the eyewash position.	Briefing signed against this revision; PASMA cards and face fit records checked.	Supervisor
Protect the area	Cover floors, windows and fittings, mask off, barrier the work area and put up keep out signs. Set up the exclusion zone below any rendering.	Safe route for others kept open; eyewash and welfare in place.	Plasterers
Set up access	Set out hop-ups and podium steps, erect towers or trestle platforms, and check the scaffold tag before rendering.	Towers inspected after assembly; scaffold inspected within 7 days; platforms on level, clear floors.	Plasterers
Prepare surfaces	Hack off unsound plaster or render, rake out joints, fix beads and mesh, and apply bonding or primer as specified.	Cable check first; damping or extraction; FFP3 or better; stop if suspect asbestos is found.	Plasterers
Mix	Mix plaster, render or lime in a ventilated area, tipping bags low and slowly into water, or load the spray machine.	Gloves and eye protection; FFP3 while tipping powders; paddle mixer held in a stable tub.	Labourers
Plaster walls and ceilings	Apply backing and finishing coats by hand or by machine, working from platforms set at a comfortable height for each area.	Eye protection overhead; platforms moved, not overreached from; droppings cleared.	Plasterers
Render from scaffold	Apply render coats by hand or spray from the scaffold, working down each elevation, with bags and tubs landed in small loads.	Load class respected; nothing thrown; spray hoses checked and pressure released before opening.	Renderers
Clean down	Wash out mixers, tubs and the spray machine and hoses, and collect waste and hacked off material.	Machines isolated and pressure released first; washout to a designated area, never a drain.	Labourers
Hand back	Strike access, lift protection, check for damage and spills, and hand the area back to the site manager.	Scaffold left clear for the scaffolder; area checked with the client before the team leaves.	Supervisor

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

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 3 of 8
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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 hop-ups and podium steps	Plasterers skimming walls and ceilings, stepping on and off and reaching while trowelling.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Hop-ups chosen only for low, short work; podium steps with gates closed, or a tower, for ceilings and longer runs. - Platforms used to the manufacturer's instructions, fully opened, on a level floor cleared of droppings and offcuts. - No standing on buckets, tubs or improvised trestles; platforms moved, not overreached from.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	Supervisor
Falls from towers and trestle platforms	Plasterers working on high ceilings, stairwells and atriums.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Towers erected to the manufacturer's instructions by PASMA-trained people, with guard-rails and toe boards and castors locked. - Stairwells reached from a tower or platform made for stairs, never ladders on treads. - Platforms inspected after assembly and before use; never moved with anyone on them.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Falls from scaffold when rendering	Renderers on working lifts, at the gap to the wall and at loading bays.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work only from scaffold with a handover certificate and an inspection within the last 7 days, with guard-rails and toe boards in place. - Boards, ties and rails moved only by the scaffolder; inside boards kept to the design as the work proceeds. - Sheeting fitted only where the scaffold is designed to carry the extra wind load.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Overloading the scaffold	Everyone on and below the scaffold, from stacked bags, tubs, mixers or spray machines on the lift.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Load class agreed with the scaffolder and shown on the tag; mixers and spray machines kept on the ground unless the design allows them. - Bags and tubs landed in small loads over the standards, never stacked against guard-rails.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Falling materials and hacked off render	Labourers, other trades and the public below the scaffold or work area.	4 x 4 = 16 High	- Exclusion zone below the work, barriered and signed; debris netting or brick guards on public elevations. - Hacked off material bagged or sent down a chute, never thrown or tipped from height. - Tools and hawks kept back from the platform edge.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Wet cement and lime on skin	Plasterers and labourers mixing and applying render, from cement burns, lime irritation 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; long sleeves. - Wet render or lime 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	
Lime and cement in the eyes	Anyone mixing, spraying, applying overhead or tipping bags of lime, cement or render.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Eye protection for mixing, spraying and overhead work; goggles where lime is handled. - Eyewash at the mixing area and on the scaffold; anyone splashed rinses at once and gets medical advice.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Supervisor
Dust from mixing bagged plaster and render	Labourers and plasterers tipping and mixing powders, and people nearby.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Pre-mixed or ready-to-use products where they do the job. - Bags opened low and tipped slowly into water; mixing outdoors or in a ventilated area away from others. - FFP3 RPE, face fit tested, while tipping and mixing powders.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	

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

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 4 of 8
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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 hacking off and chasing	Plasterers removing old sand and cement, chasing for beads or services, and others nearby.	4 x 4 = 16 High	- Hacking off kept to what the specification needs; surfaces damped or tools fitted with on-tool extraction to an M or H class unit. - RPE of at least APF 20, such as FFP3, face fit tested, with users clean shaven where the mask seals. - Clean up with an M class vacuum or damp methods, never by dry sweeping.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	Supervisor
Asbestos in old coatings and boards	Plasterers hacking off, skimming over or drilling older textured ceilings, panels and boards.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Asbestos survey checked before any preparation in buildings built or refurbished before 2000. - No sanding, scraping or hacking off of suspect textured coatings or boards; work stopped if a suspect material is 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	
Spray machines and pumps under pressure	Operators and helpers, from hoses whipping or couplings bursting open when blocked or disconnected.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Machine set up and run to the manufacturer's instructions by a trained operator; hoses and couplings checked before each use. - Pressure released by the manufacturer's procedure before opening a coupling or clearing a blockage. - Eye protection, gloves and overalls when spraying; others kept clear of the hose line and nozzle.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Supervisor
Paddle mixers and drum mixers	Labourers mixing plaster and render, from entanglement, wrist injuries and electric shock.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Paddle mixers with two handles and a lock-off trigger, used in a stable tub held steady; 110V or battery supply. - Drum mixers with guards over the drive, isolated before cleaning; hands and shovels kept out while turning.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Manual handling of bags, boards and tubs	Plasterers and labourers carrying bagged plaster, render, boards and mixed tubs up stairs and scaffold.	4 x 2 = 8 Med	- Materials landed close to the work by plant or hoist; trolleys for bags and boards; tubs kept half full. - Boards moved by trolley or lifter where possible; a two person lift only where no aid can be used and lifting is infrequent. - Bags stored on pallets at a workable height.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Breakers and vibration when hacking off	Plasterers using breakers, SDS hammers and scabblers to remove old render and plaster.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Low-vibration tools chosen, with trigger time planned and recorded so exposure stays as low as reasonably practicable. - Tools maintained with sharp bits; hearing protection worn when breaking.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Hidden cables and electrical fittings	Plasterers hacking off, chasing, fixing beads and plastering round sockets and switches.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Cable detector used before hacking off, chasing or fixing; services drawings checked. - Faceplates removed and replaced only after the circuit has been isolated and proved dead by a competent person.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Slips and trips	Plasterers and others, on plaster droppings, wet floors, hoses and cables.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Droppings cleared as work proceeds; floors protected and dried; hoses and cables run along walls. - Work areas closed to other trades while wet, and cleared at the end of each day.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 5 of 8
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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
Hop-ups and podium steps	Pre-use check; locks, gates and feet sound; level floor.	Trained user
Mobile tower	Built to the instructions; inspected after assembly and before use.	PASMA trained
Paddle and drum mixers	Handles, trigger, guards and leads checked; 110V or battery.	Trained user
Plaster or render spray machine	Hoses, couplings and pressure gauge checked before use.	Trained operator
Breakers and SDS hammers	Vibration data known; extraction fitted; bits sharp.	Trained user
Extraction unit	M or H class; filters and hoses 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	☒	Waterproof, alkali resistant, close fitting
Eye protection	☒	Mixing, spraying, overhead; goggles for lime
Hearing protection	☒	Breakers and scabblers
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	FFP3 or better, face fit tested
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☐	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 6 of 8
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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-based render and sand and cement	[ref]	Alkali resistant gloves, eye protection, wash off at once; bags in date.
Hydrated lime and lime putty	[ref]	Goggles and gloves when tipping and mixing; eyewash at the mixer.
Gypsum plaster powders	[ref]	Tip low and slowly into water; ventilation; FFP3 while mixing.
Silica dust from hacking off and chasing	[ref]	Damping or on-tool extraction; FFP3 or better, face fit tested; vacuum, not sweep.

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 mixing area and on the scaffold. Lime or cement in the eye is rinsed straight away and medical advice sought. Wet render on skin is washed off at once. Plan for getting someone down from a tower or scaffold. Nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing.

Environment and neighbours

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

Mixer and spray machine washout to a designated area, never a drain. Hacked off material and waste plaster bagged and removed from site. Debris netting on public elevations. Floors and surroundings protected and left clean at hand back.

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 7 of 8
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Briefed before the work starts

BRIEFED BY	REVISION BRIEFED	DATE AND TIME

[illegible]

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Plastering and rendering RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 8 of 8
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