TRADE AREA: BRICKLAYER
Some possible workplace hazards and possible ways for Host employers and Apprentices/Trainees in controlling these hazards.

What are possible hazards?	What could be possible control measures?
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward postures)	• All employees/staff trained how to lift properly and perform their particular task safely (e.g. correct use of trolley to lift bricks from pallet, pushing/pulling loaded pallet trucks onto/off hoist platform, use of barrows, shoveling raw materials into mixer etc.) • All employees undertake training in safe manual handling techniques (e.g. training in lifting numbers of bricks, repetitive lifting of bricks) • Have bulky materials delivered to the final work location or use mechanical load shifting devices to move materials around the site • Heavy or awkward objects/loads should be mechanically lifted& have lifting points or handles fitted. • Reduce work reaching above shoulders for long periods • Rotate workers through a variety of tasks • Take breaks to vary postures • Use appropriate PPE (e.g. gloves, long trousers, boots & safety glasses,) • Sharp edges should be covered to avoid wounds/lacerations • Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day • First aid kits available and fully stocked • First aid kit regularly checked. • Workers have access to people trained in first aid • Work safe procedures documented
Slips, trips and falls	• Use the highest level of falls prevention measures such as guard railing, physical barriers or elevated work platforms/scaffolding • Ensure all working areas and access ways are clean, level, well-lit, and in good repair • Access to work areas are not cluttered • Area around the working area not cluttered with stored material and/or rubbish • Adequate access for bricklayers and their equipment • Wear sensible non-slip footwear where necessary • Remove unwanted material and construction waste regularly from site so it does not accumulate • Ensure construction material, power leads, tools & equipment are positioned to avoid creating tripping hazards • Rebar ends fitted with protective caps • Good lighting provided to the workface, especially in basement and other enclosed areas
Powered and non-powered tools e.g. brick saw, water saw, angle grinder, trowel)	• Workers trained to recognize the hazards associated with the different types of tools and the safety precautions necessary to prevent those hazards • Employers caution employees that tools be directed away from other employees working in close proximity. • Appropriate personal protective equipment, e.g., safety goggles, gloves, hearing protection etc., are worn due to hazards that may be encountered while using portable power tools and hand tools. • Tools have a safety clutch • Earth leakage switch installed on mains supply or portable generator • Angle grinder fitted with “Dead Man’s switch” • Tools are inspected regularly • Around flammable substances, sparks produced by iron and steel hand tools can be a dangerous ignition source. Where this hazard exists, spark-resistant tools made from brass,

	plastic, aluminum, or wood provide for safety. • Guards according to manufacturer's instructions are in place where required • Test & tag undertaken for all electrical equipment • Proper apparel is worn- no loose clothing, ties, or jewelry that can become caught in moving parts. • Damaged or faulty equipment (e.g. extension leads) removed from the work area where practical and /or are isolated, locked out and tagged to prevent use • Right equipment for the job is used • Other persons in the area are protected from flying cut-offs
Terrain not level	• Place appropriate safety signs • Appropriate PPE required including footwear
Working at Heights (e.g. on scaffolds)	• Fall protection devices installed (e.g. temporary work platforms, roof safety mesh, guard railing or scaffolding) • Work positioning system used (e.g. a rope system to position and support the worker for the duration of the task) • Fall injury prevention system in place (e.g. an industrial safety net, catch platform or a safety harness) • Ensure ladders are compliant with AS 1892 • Ladders are always visually inspected prior to use, to ensure no damage or wear has occurred that could make them unsafe • On-site risk assessment developed every time work is to be done at height to outline the way the hazard will be managed • Inspect the work area prior to the commencement of work to ensure that all platforms & surfaces are stable and structurally sound • Specific risk areas clearly signposted • Provide training to employees to provide them with the skills& knowledge to do their work safely such as training in the use of falls protection equipment etc. • Monitor the work at height practices of all employees to ensure they are working safely • Training provided in correct/safe procedures in constructing working platforms
Cement products & mortar	• Provide material Safety Data sheet (MSDS) for hazardous substances • First aid kit available • Emergency eye wash facility available • Appropriate PPE provided(e.g. overalls, goggles, gloves, dust mask or respirator, safety boots & helmet)
Lack of adequate ventilation	• Control the frequency of fuelled equipment & concrete operating in confined areas • Appropriate PPE provided (dust mask or respirator) • Exhaust stack, scrubber or catalytic converter fitted to equipment • Control constant wind blowing fumes towards the work area
Bricks falling onto person below	• Hard hat must be worn • Brick guards are in place on scaffold • Training provided in passing/throwing bricks up onto scaffold
Fall from scaffold or collapse or part collapse & materials onto person below	• Ground is properly prepared resulting inn steady structure • Scaffold is correctly constructed including the assurance of planks not being too long which would then eliminate creating unsupported ends • Ensure adequate edge protection to working platform • Ensure adequate access onto working platform • Scaffold nor overloaded with bricks
Using hand tools	• Tools should be ergonomically designed so they are comfortable to use • Work gloves should absorb impact energy, provide protection from sharp edges and be puncture resistant • Avoid working in front of face • Rotate workers through a variety of tasks so workers are not undertaking the same task or holding the same postures for extended periods • A/T provided with instruction in safe use of hand tools

Moving parts of machinery	• Ensure no loose clothing being worn • Ensure training provided in correct use of shoveling cement into mixer • Ensure guard for mixer drive gear in place
Noise	• Employees are not exposed to noise that exceeds the national exposure standard (more than 85 dB) • A risk assessment on noise has been conducted where it is likely that workers are exposed to noise levels of 85 dB • Separate workers from noisy activities • Source of the excessive noise is eliminated • Noisy equipment positioned away from other work areas • Engineering solution for high noise level; e.g. quieter tool • Temporary sound absorption screen or barrier to protect persons in the area e.g. ply or polystyrene • Hearing protection provided and worn • Hearing protection supplied and used when working with or near power tools or powered mobile equipment • Powered tools are maintained to reduce noise • Exposure to excessive noise is limited • Training provided in how to use hearing protection correctly • Audiometric tests undertaken as required • Warning signs placed in areas of excessive & continual noise & that hearing protection is required
Hot weather conditions	• Work re-scheduled when extreme weather conditions present risk • Regular rest breaks provided • Water facilities available • Dressed appropriately for the conditions
Exposure to ultra violet light, glare	• Appropriate PPE for working outdoors provided (e.g. sunscreen 15+, shirt, sunglasses, flap on hat etc.) • Appropriate PPE worn
Electric mixer motor & leads	• All electrical equipment has been tested to ensure not faulty or damaged (e.g. extension leads) • Socket outlets are protected by a safety switch • Machinery isolated and locked out when maintenance activities are being performed • Emergency stop buttons on equipment that needs to be stopped quickly in an emergency installed • Electrical equipment kept away from water and other liquids • Earth leakage switch installed on mains supply & portable generator • Testing & tagging is current • Leads kept away from sources of damage such as water, heat, vehicles, trolleys etc. • Safety procedures are in place for workers working near overhead power lines
Contact with substances classified as hazardous/Dangerous goods- (e.g. natural gas)	• Risk assess work area before commencing work • Establish & communicate First Aid & emergency procedures • Use least hazardous product for the task or alternate (safer) substances • Splash guards in place • Adequate ventilation provided • Written risk assessments conducted to identify hazardous substances and control the risks • MSDS sheets available for substances classified as hazardous • Substances are stored safely and securely when not in use • Appropriate PPE provided • A/T trained in the safe use of hazardous substances and the required PPE • All hazardous substances are clearly labeled • Hazardous substances not stored in food and/or drink containers • Flammable and combustible liquids are stored away from ignition sources • Eye washes are located in immediate vicinity of chemical storage area

	• Barrier cream, or similar, available for rashes, allergies • Training provided in safe storage & handling practices • Training provided in use of fire protection equipment • A 'hazardous substances register in place
Workplace bullying and harassment	• Bullying & harassment policy displayed in the workplace • Bullying & harassment policy & procedures explained to all employees • Procedures for reporting & resolving incidents in place and explained to all employees • Workers have received information, instruction and training in relation to dealing with bullying and harassment • Workers are trained in recognition of, communication for & management of bullying & harassment • Procedures in place to ensure timely and appropriate counseling is provided to workers following a workplace bullying/harassment/aggressive/violent incident
Working alone	• There is a system in place for communicating with workers working alone • The system ensures that workers have means of communicating in the event of emergency (e.g. mobile phones, duress alarms) • The system requires regular contact to be maintained with workers to ensure safety & supervision • The employer has knowledge of the location of all workers at all times during work shifts.
Working overhead or above shoulders	• Mechanical devices used • Workers positioned at a height which allows work to occur without reaching above the head