

Risk Assessment & Method Statement

Plant Operator RAMS – Excavator earthworks and loading operations

Version: 1

PUBLISHED

Trade: Plant Operator

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Basic Information

Organization: Terraform Plant Services Ltd

Client: Southbank Civils Ltd

Site: Southbank Infrastructure Works - Southampton SO14 3FD

Scope of Work

This RAMS covers Excavator earthworks and loading operations at Southbank Infrastructure Works. It sets out the planned sequence of work, foreseeable hazards, control measures, permits, PPE, COSHH arrangements, emergency actions, and supervision requirements. The supervisor must review this document with the site-specific induction, construction phase plan, drawings, permits, and changing conditions before work starts.

Persons at Risk

Operatives, supervisors, visitors, neighbouring trades, and members of the public near the work area.

Hazards & Risk Assessment

4 hazards identified

Plant overturning or ground failure

Plant overturning or ground failure can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Excavator earthworks and loading operations. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 14 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 5 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Assess ground conditions and slopes
- Follow plant limits and manufacturer guidance
- Keep clear of excavation edges and unstable ground
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Pedestrian strike or crushing

Pedestrian strike or crushing can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Excavator earthworks and loading operations. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 13 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 4 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Maintain plant-pedestrian segregation
- Use exclusion zones and controlled routes
- Use a trained signaller where visibility is restricted
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Underground and overhead services

Underground and overhead services can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Excavator earthworks and loading operations. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 12 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Review service information before work
- Use agreed exclusion or height controls
- Stop work if service location is uncertain
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Falling or unstable loads

Falling or unstable loads can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Excavator earthworks and loading operations. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 11 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Confirm load limits and attachment suitability
- Secure and assess loads before travel
- Follow the lift plan where lifting operations apply
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Method of Work

6 steps outlined

1

Confirm operator competence, the plant selection and the planned work area

Related hazards: Plant overturning or ground failure

2

Complete pre-use checks and report defects before operation

Related hazards: Pedestrian strike or crushing

3

Assess ground, services, routes and exclusion zones

Related hazards: Underground and overhead services

4

Brief banksmen, pedestrians and other plant operators on the plan

Related hazards: Falling or unstable loads

5

Operate plant within the planned limits and controlled area

Related hazards: Falling or unstable loads

6

Park, isolate and secure plant, then report completed checks or issues

Related hazards: Falling or unstable loads

Personal Protective Equipment & Permits

PPE Required

Safety helmet

High-visibility vest

Safety footwear

Hearing protection

Permits Required

Plant pre-use inspection

Lift plan where lifting operations apply

Emergency Procedures

First Aid

Stop work, make the area safe, and contact the appointed first aider via the site emergency number confirmed at induction. The supervisor must report serious incidents to Terraform Plant Services Ltd management and prevent work restarting until the area is safe.

Fire Emergency

Raise the site alarm, stop the task, isolate energy sources only where safe, and proceed by the signed escape route to the designated assembly point. Do not attempt firefighting unless trained and it is safe to do so.

Spill Response

Stop the source if safe, cordon the area, and use the site spill kit or absorbent materials specified by the relevant SDS. Prevent entry to drainage, segregate contaminated waste, and report the event to the supervisor.

Nearest Accident & Emergency

Nearest A&E and the agreed emergency vehicle access point must be confirmed during the Southbank Infrastructure Works induction, recorded in the daily briefing, and communicated to all operatives.

Signatures & Approvals

This document has been reviewed and approved by:

Jamie Patel

Plant Operator Supervisor

03/08/2026, 09:30:00

Demonstration document using fictional project information. It must be reviewed, adapted, and approved for the actual site before work commences.

All operatives must be briefed on the hazards and control measures that apply to the live task.