

RISK RATING TABLE

Every identified hazard must be assessed to see if it is a significant hazard – something that could cause serious harm. Assessing risk is not an absolute science – it’s a ‘best estimate’ made on the basis of available information – this involves including all relevant people, including workers, in the process. A Risk Rating Table, like the one below, can help you to assess the likelihood and consequence of injury or harm.

- > Gather information about each harm identified.
- > Work out the likelihood of an injury or harm occurring.
- > Consider how many people are likely to be exposed to hazard and for how long.
- > Use the information to assess the likelihood and consequence of each hazard.
- > Rate the risk (Low / Moderate / High / Extreme) using a risk table such as the example table below.
- > Once risk has been assessed and control measures are in place, assess the risk again to establish the residual risk.

RISK RATING TABLE				
Likelihood of injury or harm to health	Consequences of injury or harm to health			
	Insignificant <i>no injuries</i>	Moderate <i>first aid and/ or medical treatment</i>	Major <i>extensive injuries</i>	Catastrophic <i>fatalities</i>
Very likely	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Moderate	Low	High	Extreme	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Highly unlikely (rare)	Low	Moderate	High	High

Extreme = immediate action

For more information on assessing machinery hazards see Section 4 of the Safe Use of Machinery BPG.