

EEA Critical Risk to Health and Safety Guide

This guide sets out the Health and Safety Critical Risks for the Electricity Supply Industry and provides a maturity model for upper management and senior leaders to use to review where the business is in its maturity journey, and to clarify what the journey ahead involves.



Proposal - EEA Critical Risk to Health and Safety Guide

- Identify any Changes to Industry Critical Risks
 - Survey HSW Act New Tech
- Include identified Controls for the Critical Risks
 - Legislation and Standards WorkSafe & EEA Guides etc.
- Provide Guidance on Risk Assessment Tools (Energy Wheel, Bow Tie etc.)
- Provide Guidance on Monitoring and Verification of Controls
- Recommendations for Reporting
- Feed Into ESI Safety Performance Indicators Report

Critical Risk Definition

Under the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Act 2026, a critical risk is a risk associated with either a hazard described in new Schedule 1A (which lists hazards by reference to specified health and safety regulations), or a hazard of any kind that is likely to result in death, a notifiable injury or illness, a notifiable incident, or an occupational disease listed in Schedule 2 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

Schedule 1A – hazards to which the following regulations apply:

- ✓ Hazardous substances and gases under pressure
 - Petroleum exploration and extraction
- ✓ Asbestos
 - Mining and quarrying
- ✓ Major hazard facilities
 - Adventure activities
 - Amusement devices
- ✓ Geothermal Energy
- ✓ General risk and workplace management
 - Miscellaneous hazards

The Catch-All Test

Beyond Schedule 1A, a risk is also critical under the Act if it's associated with a hazard of any kind that is likely to result in:

- Death
- A notifiable injury or illness (as defined in the Act)
- A notifiable incident
- An occupational disease listed in Schedule 2 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001

Assessed on what the PCBU knows, or ought reasonably to know.

Other workplace hazards in our industry

- ✓ Excavation and ground disturbance
- ✓ Demolition and refurbishment
- ✓ Work in or near water
- ✓ Work involving powered mobile plant
- ✓ Work in confined spaces
- ✓ Work on or near energised electrical installations
- ✓ Work involving exposure to airborne contaminants — dust, silica, fumes, fibres

Work Shop Questions

- 1. The Future:** The legislation gives us a starting point — the Schedule 1A activities and the workplace hazards covered by regulations. Looking beyond that list, what risks are emerging in our industry that are, or could become, genuinely critical over the next 5 to 10 years?
- 2. Assurance:** Regulations require PCBUs to monitor and review control measures, and the Act now directs that effort at critical risks. What evidence would give you confidence that a critical control is actually working?
- 3. Impact:** Five years from now, what would success look like if this revised guide genuinely changed the way the electricity industry manages critical risks?

Thank You

Your input is valuable in ensuring a relevant and complete guide is available to our industry

Our Critical Risk Working Group is open to ideas, suggestions and anyone who would like to be a part of putting this significant piece of work together

Please contact Hayley or Carmen if you would like to be involved