

***CONSTRUCTION RISK CHECKLIST > During-construction > Health & Safety
Actively Managed***

Health & Safety Is a Process, Not a Folder

All construction businesses have health and safety documents. Fewer actively manage health and safety on site every day.

The recently released Accepted Code of Practice (ACOP) for construction work reinforces an important principle: health and safety should be integrated into how construction projects are planned, coordinated and delivered, not treated as a paperwork exercise completed at the start of the job.

Effective health and safety management starts with having the right foundations in place. This typically includes a health and safety policy, worker inductions, incident reporting procedures, risk assessment processes and a Site-Specific Safety Plan (SSSP) for each project.

However, having documents alone is not enough. Risks need to be actively identified, reviewed and managed throughout the project. This is where regular toolbox talks, site inspections and ongoing engagement with workers become critical. A five-minute discussion about upcoming hazards can often be more valuable than a fifty-page document sitting in a vehicle.

Builders also have obligations to coordinate with other PCBUs (Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking) working on the site. This means sharing information about risks, consulting on overlapping activities and ensuring that one contractor's work does not create unmanaged risks for others.

Health & Safety Management Checklist

- Health & Safety Policy.
- Site-Specific Safety Plan (SSSP).
- Worker and subcontractor inductions.
- Toolbox talks.
- Site inspections and hazard reviews.

- Incident and near-miss reporting.
- Coordination with other PCBUs.
- Emergency procedures.
- Training and competency records.
- Documented corrective actions.

When it comes to systems, builders generally have two options. They can manage health and safety themselves using templates and processes such as those provided by The Building Hub, allowing them to tailor the system to their business. Alternatively, they may subscribe to specialist providers such as HazardCo or Site Safe that provide systems, templates, support and compliance tools.

Neither approach is automatically better. The best system is the one that is actually used.

Health and safety compliance is important, but the real objective is much simpler: ensuring everyone goes home safely at the end of the day. Active management, regular communication and documented processes are the keys to achieving that outcome.