



## *Hierarchy of Risk Control*





## Hierarchy of Risk Control

This is the preferred list of control measures, in prioritised order that can be used to eliminate or minimise risk.

The most effective method to deal with a hazard is to eliminate it, but that is not always possible. Some hazards cannot be eliminated.

Such is the case with a hazard like the sun i.e. we cannot ‘remove’ the sun, so therefore we must control the risk that the sun poses to us.

The below is the Hierarchy of Risk Control measures, in order of preference, and with some examples of each.

Method of Control	Hazard and Example of Method being used
<b>1 Eliminate the Hazard</b>	Completely remove the hazard from the workplace so that it is not there.
<b>2 Substitution</b>	Replace the material or process with a less hazardous one. For example, you could substitute mercury thermometers with spirit thermometers.
<b>3 Isolate the Hazard</b>	Place a barrier or similar between the hazard and people within the workplace e.g. a fence surrounding the hazard.
<b>4 Engineering Controls</b>	Install or using additional machinery such as local exhaust ventilation to control the risk. Possibly by placing guarding over dangerous items of machinery. For example, use guards on compression testing machines.
<b>5 Administrative Controls</b>	Conduct regular safety briefings. Provide training. Perform risk assessments. Increase safety awareness signage.
<b>6 Personal Protective Equipment</b>	PPE is seen as a ‘last line of defence’ to protect a worker if the above measures have failed (in most cases). PPE may be used as a temporary control measure until other alternatives are installed. In most cases a combination of the above controls AND PPE are chosen to effectively control the risks hazards pose to the workplace and those in it.