

## The hierarchy of risk control measures

Having identified the safety risks and the severity of their effects to employees and other people, employers and the self-employed should address the most serious hazards first.

The following is a brief description of typical risk control measures and the hierarchy in which control of the risk is most effective and **must** be approached. Sometimes it will not be possible to initiate the earlier levels (the lower numbers), but they should always be the starting point for adoption of controls where possible.

### A technical or engineering solution:

Here the hazard is controlled or eliminated by designing a new machine or process, or by producing some guarding measure.

1. Total **elimination** or **avoidance** of the risk at source, don't do it or use it.
2. **Reduction** of the risk at its source, **substitution** by something with less risk.
3. Control of the risk by **enclosure** of some kind, such as a guard.

### A procedural solution:

This might be; introducing a permit-to-work system, restricting the task to certain operators, a safe method of work, or issuing work instructions.

4. **Remove** the employee from the risk.
5. **Reduce** the employees' exposure to the risk.
6. Produce a **safe system of work**, which is known and understood by the employees.
7. Adequate **supervision**.

### A behavioural solution:



This will involve education and training of operatives, putting up notices and signs and generally making employees aware of the risks.

- 8.** Train **employees** in safe techniques.
- 9.** Make **safety rules**, or issue **instructions**.
- 10.** Issue **Personal protective equipment**.
- 11.** Tell employees to be **careful**.