

BRICKLAYING IN COLD, WET AND HOT WEATHER

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Protecting new work from frost and rain · covering walls at height · failing light · cold and heat on the gang

KD-RA-BR-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Work at Height Regulations 2005 reg 4 — work at height is planned, supervised and carried out safely, which means not in weather that puts the people doing it at risk; protection of new masonry from frost, rain and drying out to BS 8000-3:2020 and BS EN 1996-2:2006; COSHH 2002 for mortar admixtures; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15, with rest facilities and facilities for drying clothing under Schedule 2. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Bricklaying and the protection of new masonry in adverse weather: deciding when not to lay, covering new work against frost and rain at the end of each day, dealing with work that has been frozen or saturated, wet boards at the workface, handling covers at height, failing light on short days, and the effect of cold, heat and sun on the people doing the work.

This document does not cover: site-wide gritting, wind monitoring and stand-downs (KD-RAMS-SL-005), ice, snow and lightning on the scaffold (KD-RA-SC-004), wind stability of free-standing walls (KD-RA-BR-002), and heated enclosures using LPG, diesel or other fuel-fired heaters (separate fire and fuel assessment).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. New work built on frozen or saturated beds, or damaged by frost overnight, losing its strength

At risk: Bricklayers, anyone near the wall

Controls: No laying below the minimum temperature the mortar manufacturer or the specification sets, or onto frozen or frost-covered work; bricks, blocks and sand kept covered so they are not laid frozen or saturated. Work found frozen or rain-damaged is reported to the supervisor and taken down, never built on.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Slips on wet or frosty boards at the workface

At risk: Bricklayers, labourers

Controls: Boards at the workface checked before laying and kept clear of standing water and mortar; nobody lays from iced boards, and a scaffold affected by ice or snow is used only once cleared under KD-RA-SC-004.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Covers catching the wind while they are placed or removed at height

At risk: Bricklayers

Controls: Covers cut to manageable sizes and fixed at the wall head with battens or weights, draped down the face; never tied to guardrails or scaffold tubes unless the scaffold design allows sheeting; covers are not handled at height in wind the supervisor judges too strong to control them.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Cold stress and numb hands — dropped units, poor grip and slower reactions

At risk: Bricklayers, labourers

Controls: Layered warm and waterproof clothing; gloves that keep hands warm and still grip; a heated rest area and somewhere to dry wet clothing; hot drinks and more frequent short breaks in cold spells; supervisors watch for shivering, confusion or clumsiness and bring the person in.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Heat, sun and UV exposure in summer

At risk: Bricklayers, labourers

Controls: Drinking water on site; shade over the mixing station and rest area; shirts on, neck protection with hard hats and high-factor sunscreen available; the heaviest laying programmed into the cooler part of the day; heat illness signs briefed and anyone affected brought into shade and cooled.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Mortar stiffening fast in heat and drying wind — rushing and wetting down

At risk: Bricklayers

Controls: Smaller batches; retarded mortar only as the supplier specifies; mortar not re-tempered beyond the working life the supplier gives; bricks wetted only where the specification allows, with the run-off kept off scaffold boards and walkways.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. Improvised heating — braziers, gas burners or heaters under covers

At risk: Everyone on site, the building

Controls: No braziers, open flames or gas burners to thaw materials or warm hands. Heaters under covers or in enclosed work areas only under a separate fire and fuel assessment agreed with the principal contractor — never an improvised arrangement.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Failing light and short winter days on the scaffold

At risk: Bricklayers, labourers

Controls: Task lighting on the lifts, loading bay and access routes where work runs into dusk; laying at height stops when the light is not good enough to see edges, boards and the work clearly; the programme for short days allows for it rather than pushing on in the dark.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 1 Check the forecast each afternoon for overnight frost and rain and each morning before laying. Confirm the mortar manufacturer's and the specification's minimum laying temperature.
- 2 Keep bricks, blocks and sand covered on delivery and in storage so they are not frozen or saturated when used.
- 3 Before work starts, check the boards at the workface for ice, frost and standing water. A scaffold affected by ice or snow is used only once cleared under KD-RA-SC-004.
- 4 Decide whether laying can go ahead. Do not lay below the minimum temperature or onto frozen or frost-covered work.
- 5 Inspect yesterday's work. Report any work that is frozen, washed out or damaged to the supervisor; it is taken down, not built on.
- 6 In heat, mix smaller batches, use mortar within its working life, and programme the heaviest laying for the cooler part of the day. Water and shade available.
- 7 Cover new work at every break when rain threatens and at the end of every shift: covers at the wall head, weighted or battened, draped down the face.
- 8 STOP laying at height in heavy rain, freezing conditions, wind the supervisor judges unsafe for handling covers, at the first thunder or lightning, or when the light fails. Withdraw to the welfare facilities.
- 9 Take breaks in the heated rest area in cold spells and dry wet clothing. Supervisors watch for signs of cold or heat illness.
- 10 Remove covers from the wall head down, folded and stored so they cannot blow off the scaffold.
- 11 Record weather stand-downs and any work taken down in the site diary.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Breathable covers, polythene and insulated quilts for new work	Task lighting for lifts and access routes
Battens and weights for securing covers	Heated welfare with drying facilities, drinking water and shade
Covered storage for bricks, blocks and sand	

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

Head protection	Gloves — task-rated	Waterproof and insulated clothing in cold weather
Safety footwear	Eye protection	Hard hat neck protection and sunscreen in hot weather
High visibility	Hearing protection	

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

No permit is normally required for this activity. The site's own rules may still require one — check before starting, and record any permit issued below.

PERMITS ISSUED FOR THIS WORK (OR NONE)

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.