

Statutory basis: PUWER 1998 — fixing tools suitable for the work and the base material (reg 4), maintained to the manufacturer's instructions (reg 5), used only by people trained in their use (reg 9), and disconnected from air, battery, fuel cell or cartridge before clearing, adjusting or leaving them (reg 19); Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 for the compressor and its air receiver; Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 for the impulse noise of nailers and cartridge tools; Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 reg 4 for eye protection; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. 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

Use of framing, first-fix and finish nail guns (compressed-air, gas and battery) and powder-actuated cartridge fixing tools for carpentry fixings to timber, steel and concrete: trigger selection, line of fire, base materials, cartridge strengths and misfires, compressed air and fuel cells, maintenance, and who may use the tools. This is the detailed assessment for the cartridge tools and compressors summarised in KD-RAMS-PL-005.

This document does not cover: the carpentry the fixings are part of (KD-RAMS-CJ-001, KD-RAMS-CJ-002 and KD-RAMS-CJ-006), abrasive wheels, breakers and other small plant (KD-RAMS-PL-005), and designed structural fixings, which follow the engineer's specification.

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. Unintended firing — contact-trip nailers double-firing, or firing when bumped; recoil unbalancing the user

At risk: Operator, others nearby

Controls: Sequential (single-shot) trigger for all work, unless the assessment for a specific repetitive task justifies contact trip. Finger off the trigger when not fixing; the contact safety never taped, wedged or removed; the tool never pointed at anyone. Recoil or a double-fire can unbalance someone on a ladder or stepladder, so nailing is done from a podium or working platform.

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

2. Nails passing through thin material, splitting out at edges and knots, or ricocheting off metal

At risk: Operator, people on the other side

Controls: No fixing near edges, knots or existing fixings. The free hand kept well away from the nose and the line of the nail. Nobody on the far side of a partition, floor or ceiling being fixed through — the other side checked and cleared. Eye protection for the operator and anyone close by.

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

3. Powder-actuated tools fixing into unsuitable base material — fastener or fragments thrown

At risk: Operator, others nearby

Controls: Indirect-acting (piston) tools only. The base material identified and a test fixing made as the manufacturer instructs. No fixing into brittle, very hard or very soft materials, glazed or tiled surfaces, or material thin enough for the fastener to pass through. Edge distances and spacing to the manufacturer's data; the tool held square to the surface; nobody behind the work.

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

4. Wrong cartridge strength, misfires and loose cartridges

At risk: Operator, others

Controls: Cartridge strength chosen from the manufacturer's table, starting at the lowest that sets the fixing. After a misfire the tool is held against the work for the time the manufacturer states before it is opened, and the misfired cartridge goes into a separate container for return. Cartridges kept in their container, issued and returned by count, and locked away — never loose in pockets or on the floor.

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

5. Impulse noise from cartridge tools and nailers

At risk: Operator, others nearby

Controls: Noise assessed; hearing protection for the operator and anyone close by during cartridge fixing; others kept away while it is under way.

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

6. Compressed air — hose whip, couplings parting, air blown at skin

At risk: Operator, people nearby

Controls: Hoses and couplings checked before use; pressure set at the regulator to no more than the tool's marked maximum; air disconnected before clearing, adjusting or leaving the tool; airlines never pointed at anyone. The compressor's owner or hirer confirms whether a written scheme of examination applies and that any examination is in date, and that record is seen before use.

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

7. Gas nailer fuel cells — flammable

At risk: Operator, others

Controls: Fuel cells stored and carried as the label directs, away from heat, sunlight and ignition sources, and taken out of the tool when it is not in use. Spent cells disposed of as the manufacturer directs, never punctured or burned.

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

8. Operators not trained on the tool

At risk: Operators

Controls: Cartridge tool operators trained by the tool manufacturer or supplier for that tool and authorised in writing by the supervisor. Nail gun users trained in trigger modes, jam clearing and line of fire. Training records on site.

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

9. Worn safety mechanisms, damaged noses and air leaks from poor maintenance

At risk: Operator

Controls: Daily function check of the contact safety and trigger before use. Servicing to the manufacturer's instructions, with cartridge tools serviced at the intervals the manufacturer sets and the records kept. A defective tool is tagged and withdrawn.

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

- Confirm each operator is trained for the tool and, for cartridge tools, authorised in writing.
- Identify the base material and what is on the other side of it; clear or protect the other side. Set up a podium or working platform — no nailing from ladders.
- Daily check: contact safety, trigger, nose, magazine, hoses and couplings, fuel cell or battery. See the compressor's examination record where one applies. Defective tools tagged out.
- Set nailers to sequential trigger. Set air pressure at the regulator within the tool's marked maximum.
- For cartridge tools, make a test fixing and choose the lowest cartridge strength that sets it.
- Put on eye and hearing protection. Warn others nearby and keep them out of the line of fire.
- Fix square to the surface, away from edges, knots and existing fixings, with the free hand clear.
- STOP if a fastener fails to set, passes through, ricochets, or the base material cracks or spalls. Reassess the fixing method before continuing.
- Disconnect the air, battery or fuel cell — or unload the cartridge tool — before clearing a jam, adjusting, moving between work areas or putting the tool down.
- After a misfire, hold the tool to the work for the time the manufacturer states before opening it; misfired cartridges into the return container.
- At the end of the shift, count cartridges back into the locked store, disconnect and store the tools, and record any defects.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE**5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Nail guns (air, gas or battery) set to sequential trigger | Cartridges in the manufacturer's containers, lockable store and misfire container |
| Compressor with regulator, hoses and couplings | Podium or working platform for nailing at height |
| Indirect-acting powder-actuated fixing tools | |

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS**COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS****6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST**

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|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Head protection | Gloves — task-rated | Eye protection for the operator and anyone close by |
| Safety footwear | Eye protection | Hearing protection during cartridge fixing |
| 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.