

Statutory basis: CDM 2015 reg 22(4) — no work in an excavation where any supports or battering have been provided unless it has been inspected by a competent person after any event affecting its stability, and a flood is treated as such an event; the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 regs 12 and 38 for the discharge; on a site in England, the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 for pump fuel; the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, with HSE HSG141 (2nd edition, 2023), for supplies and pumps near water; COSHH 2002 for engine exhaust and contaminated floodwater. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own oil storage rules, and Scotland and Northern Ireland their own discharge rules — confirm those that apply to the site. 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

Removing water that has flooded excavations, trenches, pits and basements after rain, a burst main or groundwater ingress: making the flooded area safe, isolating electrical supplies, selecting and positioning pumps, pumping out and discharging, and the competent-person inspection and clean-up before anyone works in the area again.

This document does not cover: designed groundwater control — well points, deep wells and sump pumping to a dewatering design (KD-RAMS-PS-005), planned water management in soakaway and crate excavations and infiltration test pits (KD-RA-EX-003), excavation and support (KD-RAMS-GW-001), and flooding from a sewer or foul system (stop and refer).

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. Drowning and falls into flooded excavations — depth and edges hidden

At risk: Operatives, visitors, the public

Controls: A flooded excavation is closed off at once with barriers that stop a fall, and signed; nobody wades in or enters to place a pump — the depth is assumed unknown; covers or secure fencing where the public or children could reach; a throw line and edge matting while work goes on beside deep water, and unavoidable work beside it done under the work over or near water permit.

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

2. Live electrics in flooded basements and buildings

At risk: Anyone approaching the water

Controls: Before anyone approaches the water in a basement or building, the electrical supply to the area — the site's temporary installation and the building's own — is isolated by a competent person at a point outside the flooded area and locked off. If isolation cannot be confirmed, nobody approaches the water and the supply's owner is called.

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

3. Collapse of sides, supports and services softened or scoured by water

At risk: Anyone entering after pumping

Controls: Nobody enters until a competent person has inspected the excavation after pumping and recorded it; supports, faces, spoil heaps, adjacent footings and exposed services checked for scour — exposed cables and pipes treated as live and supported; pumping rate controlled so faces do not slump.

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

4. Carbon monoxide from engine-driven pumps in excavations and basements

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Petrol and diesel pumps stay at ground level in open air with only the suction hose taken in; exhausts pointed away from excavations, basement openings, doors and air intakes; an engine is never run inside a basement, pit or enclosed space.

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

5. Submersible pumps and leads — electric shock and handling

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Reduced low voltage wherever the pump allows, otherwise RCD protection; leads inspected and kept out of the water apart from the pump's sealed cable; supply isolated before a pump is moved or cleared; heavy pumps lowered by two people or by machine from the lifting point — never by the cable.

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

6. Discharging silty or contaminated water*At risk: Drains, watercourses, the site*

Controls: Discharge only by the agreed route through a settlement tank or silt bag — never to a watercourse, surface water drain or ground without an environmental permit (EPR 2016 regs 12 and 38), nor to a foul sewer without the undertaker's consent. A sheen, odour or discolouration stops the discharge.

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

7. Fuel spills when refuelling pumps*At risk: Ground, groundwater*

Controls: Refuelling over a drip tray with the engine off and cool, away from the edge; a fuel container over 200 litres stored within a bund as the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 require in England, or as the rules elsewhere require; spill kit at the pump.

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

8. Contaminated floodwater — sewage and leptospirosis*At risk: Operatives*

Controls: Floodwater treated as contaminated under the COSHH 2002 assessment: waterproof gloves, cuts covered, washing before eating or smoking; leptospirosis card carried; water from a foul system stops the work for advice.

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

- 01 Close off every flooded excavation and basement with barriers and signs; nobody enters the water.
- 02 Find the source — rain, burst main, groundwater or foul system — and stop or isolate it where that can be done safely; a foul source stops the work for advice.
- 03 In a basement or building, isolate and lock off the electrical supply to the area before anyone approaches the water. If isolation cannot be confirmed, STOP and call the supply's owner.
- 04 Agree the discharge route and settlement arrangements with the site before pumping starts.
- 05 Select and inspect pumps — engine pumps at ground level, exhausts away from openings; submersibles on reduced low voltage or RCD protection — and lower them from outside the excavation.
- 06 Pump at a rate that lets faces and supports drain without slumping; watch the discharge; refuel with the engine off, over a drip tray, away from the edge.
- 07 STOP pumping on a contaminated discharge, movement of faces or supports, or an electrical fault — isolate first.
- 08 When the water is down, a competent person inspects the excavation and supports and records the inspection before anyone enters.
- 09 Clear mud and debris, reinstate ladders and edge protection, keep a pump on standby where more water is likely, and record the event.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

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5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Engine-driven surface pumps | Bunded fuel container, drip trays and spill kit |
| Submersible pumps on 110V or RCD-protected supply | Barriers, signs, throw line and edge matting |
| Hoses, settlement tank or silt bags | Lock-off kit for electrical isolation |

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Head protection | Gloves — task-rated | Waterproof gloves |
| Safety footwear | Eye protection | Safety wellingtons |
| High visibility | Hearing protection | |

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

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7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-EX-005 — Excavation & Permit to Dig

The inspection record before re-entry.

PERMIT NUMBER

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-EI-011 — Electrical Isolation Certificate

Flooded basements and buildings.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-WW-034 — Work Over or Near Water Permit

Unavoidable work beside deep water.

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.