

TIMBER FLOOR LAYING AND SANDING

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Solid and engineered boards · subfloor preparation · sanding and sealing

KD-RAMS-CJ-005 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5 (this document is the recorded safe system of work); COSHH 2002 — wood dust is a substance hazardous to health and hardwood dust a carcinogen, against the workplace exposure limits in EH40/2005 (4th edition, 2020); PUWER 1998 (saws and nailers); Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; Work at Height Regulations 2005; LOLER 1998 reg 8 for offloading and lifting trusses; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. A trussed roof is not stable until it is braced: the bracing is temporary works under BS 5975-1:2024, it is set by the design, and it goes on as each truss is set rather than at the end of the run.

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

Laying solid and engineered timber flooring, subfloor preparation, and sanding and sealing of new and existing timber floors, including moisture checks, acclimatisation and finishing systems.

This document does not cover: sports floors and screed repairs (Flooring & Tiling trade for screeds).

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. Wood dust from cutting, routing and sanding — hardwood dust is a carcinogen

At risk: Operatives, others in the area

Controls: On-tool extraction (M-class) for every power cut and sanding operation; designated cutting stations with extraction and segregation; FFP3 RPE (face-fit tested) where extraction cannot adequately control exposure; no dry sweeping — vacuum only.

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

2. Contact with saw blades and cutters — kickback and cut injuries

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Guards in place and adjusted; push sticks for rip cuts; blades sharp and suited to the material; no gloves at rotating blades; repairs and blade changes only with the tool isolated; competence to PUWER for every saw user.

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

3. Nail gun and cartridge tool injuries

At risk: Operatives, others nearby

Controls: Sequential-trip triggers; never bypass the contact safety; hands clear of the line of fire; disconnect air/battery before clearing jams; cartridge tools only by trained operatives with the tool's registration where the site requires it.

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

4. Adhesives, foams and solvents

At risk: Operatives

Controls: COSHH assessments for every product; ventilate during use; isocyanate foams — RPE and glove requirements from the data sheet; no smoking or hot work near solvent use; store in the COSHH store overnight.

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

5. Hand-arm vibration from power tools

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Select low-vibration tools, keep cutting edges sharp, rotate operatives to keep exposure below the action value, and record trigger time where the assessment requires it.

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

6. Noise from cutting, fixing and plant

At risk: Operatives, others in the area

Controls: Select quieter methods and tools where practicable; hearing protection in designated zones and for noisy operations; agree noisy-works windows with the occupier in occupied buildings.

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

TIMBER FLOOR LAYING AND SANDING

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

continued

KD-RAMS-CJ-005 Rev A0

7. Slips, trips and housekeeping

At risk: Everyone in the work area

Controls: Keep the workforce clear, remove waste and offcuts as they are created, route leads at high level or under mats, and maintain task lighting.

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

8. Disturbing asbestos-containing materials in existing buildings

At risk: Operatives, building occupants

Controls: Check the asbestos register before any intrusive work (CAR 2012). No register, or unclear entries, means stop and refer. If suspect material is found: STOP, withdraw, secure the area and report it — the discovery procedure applies before any further work.

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

9. Fire and explosion risk from sanding dust and finishing products

At risk: Operatives, the building

Controls: Empty sander bags frequently into metal containers removed from the building daily — sanding dust self-heats; solvent finishes ventilated with ignition sources excluded; no hot work in the area during finishing; charge tools away from dust.

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

10. Solvent vapours from seals and lacquers

At risk: Operatives, occupants

Controls: Water-based systems where the specification allows; ventilate during and after application; RPE to the data sheet for solvent systems; occupied areas programmed and notified with re-entry times agreed.

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

- Test subfloor moisture and record readings; acclimatise boards to the manufacturer's schedule.
- Prepare the subfloor: fixings punched, boards secured, existing coverings checked against the asbestos register before removal.
- Lay to the specified pattern with expansion gaps; fix by the specified method — secret nail, glue or float.
- Sand in progressively finer grits with extraction; empty dust to metal containers outside the building.
- Apply the finishing system with ventilation; exclude ignition sources; agree re-entry times.
- Protect the finished floor and hand over with the maintenance data.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

--

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Floor sanders with extraction	Flooring nailers
Rail saw / mitre saw	Moisture meter
INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

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

Head protection	Gloves — task-rated	FFP3 RPE when sanding
Safety footwear	Eye protection	RPE per data sheet for solvent finishes
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.

--

TIMBER FLOOR LAYING AND SANDING

continued

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

KD-RAMS-CJ-005 Rev A0

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	2026-08-09	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-10	material	Wood dust exposure limits cited against EH40/2005 (4th edition, 2020). Legislation position reviewed against Product Legislation Register KD-REG-01 Rev R01.3 and the August 2026 horizon scan; cutoff moved to 10 August 2026.	— not yet approved —
D2	2026-08-11	material	Statutory basis extended to name LOLER 1998 reg 8 for offloading and lifting trusses, and BS 5975-1:2024 for the temporary bracing of a trussed roof, following the addition of the trussed rafter document. Both now appear on the printed legal note.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-27	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from D2; 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.