

Working in a Hazardous Environment – Inclement Weather Conditions

Safety@Optus – Hazard Standard



What you need to know

General definition of a hazardous work environment is when the tasks being performed in the workplace are dangerous or the climate conditions where the work is taking place can pose a high potential of risk to people.

Most hazardous work environments target the **physical, ergonomic, chemical, and biological** hazards that may be present at the workplace.

The focus of this standard is targeted on the extreme climate conditions (AKA as inclement weather) that may be present in the workplace and the subsequent risk management of the physical risk and effects that these environments may cause

What is regarded as a hazardous Environment

Inclement weather is described as the existence of rain or abnormal conditions such as hail, snow, cold, high wind, severe dust storm, extreme high temperature, solar and UV or any combination of these conditions, which in addition maybe subject to change

Inclement weather can create a workplace where it not reasonable or it is unsafe for employees to continue to work

Planning your work

The key is the risk assessment of the work environment to avoid heat stress, hyperthermia, Hypothermia windchill etc EG: hydration and time limits for working in a roof space, UV exposure, time in the sun, Thermal heat in facilities, correct and suitable PPE, access to hot and cold drinks, this must be determined at the planning stage of work

At times, work will be required to be carried out in conditions that are not ideal, however with sound risk assessment and controls it is not unreasonable for the work to continue if managed correctly.

Legal Responsibilities

Some site conditions are foreseeable, due to their geographic location; however, it is It is the responsibility of the Supplier that the health of workers and the conditions at the workplace are monitored for the purpose of preventing illness or injury of workers

Use of this Standard

This Standard “at times” will need to be read and used in parallel with other WHS standards to ensure that all concurrent duty holders are aware of its WHS obligations and all Optus contractor requirements are being met.

The requirements listed in this standard will be used by Optus as part of the contractor audit assurance framework to verify the management of the WHS contractual and legislative obligations

Australian Standards and Industry codes

It is the responsibility of the Contractor to be aware of “where applicable” how it meets relevant Australian codes and standards for working with hazardous chemicals or Substances and any subsequent PPE needed, EG; P! and P@ mask requirements



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Safety@Optus – Contractor Requirements



Contractor Requirements

1. The Supplier must have a process of risk assessment to identify any type of hazardous work environment that may be subject to weather and any changes in the weather.
2. Where it is identified that weather may be an issue on the site. The Supplier must have a process make all workers on site aware of what the controls that are in place prior to the work commencing.
3. The control measures used to manage the different types of weather scenarios must be clearly be communicated and consulted to all workers for input, then documented on the site-specific SWMS and the project risk register if applicable to other sites.
4. All PPE (personal protective equipment) that is used as a part of a control measure must meet any required Australian standards if applicable and be fit for purpose.
5. All PPE must only be used for its intended purpose and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations
6. The Supplier is to ensure that First aid kits have suitable content to treat any person on the site if an incident in relation to a hazardous environment and exposure occurs
7. Where applicable, conduct inspections of works to ensure compliance with the control measures that have been put in place to ensure the safe systems of work are effective
8. A Supplier must be able to verify that any emergency plans, entry and exit plans developed are by an appropriately trained certified personal and the site supervision of the tasks are performed by appropriately trained and where applicable "certified or licenced personal "
9. The Supplier is to ensure that any Council or local authority permits that are required are on site and available upon request
10. There is to be accountable personal on site that can demonstrate the risk controls that are in place are fit for purpose and effective in preventing harm