

Risk Rating Scale

Scale from BS8800: Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems

LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY		
	Slightly harmful	Harmful	Extremely Harmful
Highly unlikely	TRIVIAL RISK	TOLERABLE RISK	MODERATE RISK
Unlikely	TOLERABLE RISK	MODERATE RISK	SUBSTANTIAL RISK
Likely	MODERATE RISK	SUBSTANTIAL RISK	INTOLERABLE RISK

RISK LEVEL	ACTION AND TIMESCALE
TRIVIAL	No action is required and no documentary records need to be kept
TOLERABLE	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more cost-effective solution or improvement that imposes no additional cost burden. Monitoring is required to ensure that controls are maintained
MODERATE	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, but the costs of prevention should be carefully measured and limited. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with extremely harmful consequences, further assessment may be necessary to establish precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures
SUBSTANTIAL	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves work in progress, urgent action should be taken.
INTOLERABLE	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, work has to remain prohibited.

Note: In the context Tolerable means that the risk has been reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.