



DAZL Rating a Risk

Once you have identified the hazards in your business you need to rate the risk. The rating will determine whether or not it is safe enough to continue with the work or whether you need to adopt additional Control Measures to reduce or eliminate the risk still further.

The rating depends upon the likelihood of an event occurring (from most unlikely to most likely) and the severity of the injuries that might arise if the event does occur (from trivial injuries to major injuries).

You can do what is called a **Qualitative Risk Rating** which means you can simply decide whether the risk is minimal, low, medium or high. Generally this short hand form of risk rating is used to determine which hazard should take priority over another in terms of deciding what to do and when.

To calculate a **Quantitative Risk Rating**, begin by allocating a number to the **Likelihood** of the risk arising and **Severity of Injury** and then multiply the Likelihood by the Severity to arrive at the **Rating**. The number to be allocated is set out in the table below.

Example:

A Most Unlikely Event [1] x Trivial Injuries if event occurs [1] = Risk Rating of [1] Minimal Risk (1x1=1)
 A Likely Event [3] x Major Injuries if event occurs [4] = Risk Rating of [12] High Risk (3x4=12)

When you allocate the Rating you do so **after** taking into consideration any safety measures – called **Control Measures** – that you already have in place to reduce the hazard and any safety measure which you say you will put into place.

Risk Rating				Rating Action Bands	
Likelihood	X	Severity of Injury	=	Assessed Band	Control Measures
1. Most Unlikely		1. Trivial Injuries		Minimal Risk 1 or 2	Maintain Existing Measures
2. Unlikely		2. Slight Injuries		Low Risk 3 or 4	Review Control Measures
3. Likely		3. Serious Injuries		Medium Risk 6 or 8	Improve Control Measures
4. Most Likely		4. Major Injuries		High Risk 9, 12 or 16	Improve Control Measures immediately and consider stopping work activity until risk reduced
To establish Risk Rating multiply "Likelihood" by the "Severity"					

- **Assessed Rating Bands**
- **Minimal Risk - Rating of 1 or 2**
- **Low Risk - Rating of 3 or 4**

Even if the risk is low, there may be things you can still do to bring the risk rating back down to Minimal.



Medium Risk - Rating of 6 or 8 - If the Rating Action Band is greater than 3 or 4 then you should review your existing Safety/Control Measures and add whatever Additional Control Measures may be necessary to bring the risk back to a Low or Minimal Risk.

If you identify any hazard which, after applying any applicable control measures, is still rated as Medium, then speak to a professional health and safety advisor.

High Risk - Rating of 9, 12 or 16 - Under no circumstances should you continue operations that have a high risk rating without speaking to a professional advisor with a view to re-examining the hazard, the system of work in operation, the training and protection of your employees and the information to be provided to them.

Alternative Risk Matrix - You may wish to use an alternative Risk Matrix, perhaps one that breaks down the elements of the risk even further. One alternative would be the following:

Likelihood of Occurrence	Severity of Consequences				
	1. Minor Injuries [No lost time]	2. Significant Injury [up to 7 Days]	3. Serious Injury [7 Day Injury]	4. Major Injury	5. Fatality
1. Very unlikely [hasn't occurred before]	1	2	3	4	5
2 - Slight [rarely occurs]	2	4	6	8	10
3 - Feasible [possible, but not common]	3	6	9	12	15
4 - Likely [has before, will again]	4	8	12	16	20
5 - Very Likely [occurs frequently]	5	10	15	20	25
Risk Rating: Likelihood * Severity	Minimal 1-2	Low 3-9	Medium 10-15	High 16-20	Extreme 25

This keys the element of severity to injuries reportable under [RIDDOR](#). A [Major Injury](#) is one defined by the [RIDDOR Regulations](#).

- Score 1-3 Minimal Risk - Maintain Existing Measures
- Score 3-9 Low Risk - Review Existing Measures
- Score 10-15 Medium Risk - Improve Control Measures
- Score 16-20 High Risk - Consider Stopping Activity
- Score 25 Extreme Risk - Do Not Proceed