 Risk assessment

A resource document for students and teachers

Assessing the risk of science investigations is important as it defines measures and parameters to conduct investigations safely. Risk assessments form an essential part of good work, health and safety and create awareness of hazards, risks and measures of control.

For a risk assessment you need to:

* identify the hazards
* assess the risk
* control the risk.

A risk assessment for an activity should:

* Identify the investigation name or aim of the investigation
* list the hazardous or dangerous chemicals to be used or produced during the activity
* refer to information about the chemicals from labels and information from suppliers, such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
* identify important routes of entry and hazards for the hazardous chemicals
* identify the risks in the way the chemical will be used
* state conclusions about the risks and what controls (procedures and equipment) will be used to minimise risk
* indicate how the chemical will be disposed of safely and responsibly
* Record the name of the person making the risk assessment and the date it was made.

Risk assessments can be amended to suit the context of your school and the individual needs of each science laboratory or working area. Ensure that each risk assessment identifies and assesses all possible hazards and risks and suitably controls the risk.

Complete the table below

| Parameters | Risk assessment |
| --- | --- |
| Investigation name or aim |       |
| Hazardous or dangerous chemicals to be used |       |
| Source/s of safety information |       |
| Identify the hazards |       |
| Assess the risk |       |
| Control the risk |       |
| Disposal |       |
| Name/Date |       |