



THE PLANOPS RAMS REVIEW STANDARD

The twenty tests

Print it and work down the list. First decide which tests this work engages, then record a verdict for each, and a severity for anything short of met. A struck-out n/a box ☒ marks a test that always applies. Scoring, caps and bands are overleaf.

RAMS / revision

Requirement / revision

CRITERION	THE TEST	WT	VERDICT				SEVERITY		
Part 1 Is the risk assessment real?	Document-only. Both always apply	18	met	part	not	n/a	crit	maj	min
1 Method statement supported by risk assessment	Every safety-significant method statement step rests on an assessed risk, and the risk assessment and method statement clearly connect rather than sit side by side.	9	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
2 Foreseeable hazards and controls for this trade, activity and site	The risk assessment covers the hazards this activity actually presents on this site, with controls that follow the hierarchy of control.	9	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 2 Does the method statement say enough?	Document-only. Each asks: present, specific, adequate?	56							
3 Scope of works stated and specific	Scope (locations, boundaries, exclusions, interfaces) stated specifically enough to audit the rest against. Presence and specificity only; matching your activity is 18.	5	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
4 Programme	Duration, sequence and working hours are stated well enough to judge the controls against them.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5 Resources, competence and equipment	People, plant and equipment are named, with competence requirements and supporting evidence (cards, tickets, certificates) where applicable.	5	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
6 Hazard identification	Hazards are task-specific rather than generic, with competent input where needed and review or authorisation under the contractor's own arrangements.	7	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
7 Control measures	Supervision, permits, inspection regimes, briefings and PPE are specified and workable.	8	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
8 Emergency arrangements	Rescue, first aid, welfare and raising-the-alarm arrangements are specific to this activity and location.	7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9 Temporary works	Coordination, design, checks and lifting responsibilities are addressed where the activity involves them. Judged on the work described, not only on what the requirement referenced (that is 17).	6	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10 Interface with others and the public	Segregation, signage, security, dust and noise controls address who else is affected.	5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11 Training and information	Induction, task briefing, specialist training and card requirements are stated where applicable.	4	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
12 Environmental issues	Waste, pollution prevention, noise, permits and monitoring are addressed where the activity or project requires them.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13 Monitoring and review	Checking, enforcement, change management and briefing records are described.	3	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 3 Does it answer the requirement you issued?	Needs the requirement. 18 applies when it records an activity description	22							
14 Addresses the risk category on your requirement	The submission engages the specific hazard category your requirement identifies.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15 Addresses the legislation cited on your requirement	For each piece of legislation or guidance named on the requirement, the relevant requirements are addressed in the method and controls.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16 References the permit process you require	Where the requirement calls for a permit, the submission references raising and closing it.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17 Addresses the temporary works you referenced	Where the requirement references temporary works, their design, inspection and coordination are addressed.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18 Scope matches the activity on your requirement	The submitted scope neither falls short of nor overruns the activity the requirement describes. Conformity only; specificity is 3.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19 Controls proportionate to the risk	Controls are proportionate to the actual foreseeable risk, taking account of the risk level recorded on the requirement.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 4 Does it meet your own rules?	Needs your organisation rules	4							
20 Organisation requirements	Gaps against client standards, framework conditions and site rules beyond the regulations. Cite each by its exact reference; if none were issued, n/a, invent nothing.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Does not apply means this work does not engage the test, never that the RAMS is silent on it. Give every n/a a one-sentence reason overleaf, or it counts as unassessed. With no requirement, 14 to 19 do not apply; 20 does not apply when no organisation rules were issued. A document-only result leads with its coverage: "Document-only review: 13 of 20 tests assessed, applicable weight 74", or the actual count and weight.



MARKING THE SHEET

Applicability, scoring, caps and bands

The same twenty tests, weights and bands for every trade, with the tests a job does not engage set aside and the reason written down. The score is arithmetic over your verdicts, so every point lost traces to a named test.

How to use it

1. Have your requirement to hand: risk category, legislation cited, permit, temporary works reference, activity description, risk level, and your own rules if any.
2. Write down the hazard profile: each hazard category the work involves and how serious it is. Take it from the requirement; if it recorded none, rate it from the work described, never from the RAMS's own rating.
3. Decide which tests apply. For each n/a, write the reason below.
4. Record a verdict against every test that applies: **met**, **partially met** or **not met**.
5. For anything short of met, record a severity as the consequence if this work, with these hazards, proceeds as written. **Critical**: could kill or seriously injure. **Major**: a material gap to close before work starts. **Minor**: would not, on its own, materially affect safe execution.
6. Score it, or apply the caps alone. Return the verdicts and the reasons with the review, and record the decision below.

The arithmetic

VERDICT	FACTOR	SEVERITY	FACTOR
Met	0	Critical	1.0
Partially met	0.5	Major	0.6
Not met	1.0	Minor	0.25
Does not apply	leaves denominator	None	0

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applicable_weight = sum of weights that apply
deduction(i) = weight(i) x verdict x severity
before_caps = 100 x (applicable_weight
- sum of deductions) / applicable_weight
score = round( min(before_caps, cap) )
cap = 100 when no cap condition applies
```

Coverage. Every test carries a verdict or a reasoned n/a. If any is unassessed, or an n/a is unexplained or on an always-applicable test, no score is issued: say so and name what was missed. **Zero** is a real score, reserved for a submission that fails every applicable test at critical severity, and never means could not assess.

REASONS FOR DOES NOT APPLY

For example: "9: no temporary works or lifting in a floor-covering installation", not "not relevant".

Test

Test

Test

Test

EVIDENCE AND THE DECISION

Credit a supporting document only if supplied and read; an unreadable one is never a safety verdict. Acceptance does not replace permits, briefings or site checks.

Documents assessed / referenced, not supplied / unreadable

Checked separately: document, revision, by whom, finding resolved

Decision and reasons

Reviewer / date

Which tests apply

Always: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13, worth 50 points, and 18 when the requirement records an activity description. An n/a on one of these leaves it unassessed and no score is issued, so a scored review never rests on less than half the standard.

When engaged: the rest. A carpet fit involves no temporary works, so 9 does not apply. A steel erection RAMS silent on temporary works has not met 9, at critical severity.

Settled by the record: no requirement, 14 to 19. With one: 15 with no legal references; 16 with no permit required, named or referenced; 17 with no temporary works referenced or linked; 18 with no activity description. 20 with no organisation rules.

No profile on the requirement: 14 does not apply. Rate the profile from the work described and judge 19 and severity against it.

Severity follows the profile: generic emergency arrangements are critical on confined space or harness work and can be minor on a low-hazard fit-out. A ground floor location alone does not make an emergency gap minor.

Caps

Applied after the arithmetic. Lowest cap wins.

WHEN	MAX	WHY
Any test not met at critical severity	49	One critical failure belongs in the bottom band whatever else the document does well.
Any test partially met at critical severity	69	A partly addressed critical risk cannot sit above significant gaps.
Any test short of met at major severity	89	The top band is defined by the absence of material gaps.

Bands

Band names describe the RAMS overall, not individual findings, and mean the same thing for every trade.

SCORE	BAND AND WHAT IT MEANS
90 to 100	No material gaps. Any findings are minor and do not, on their own, affect safe execution.
70 to 89	Gaps to close. At least one material gap remains. Work should not start until the points listed are closed.
50 to 69	Significant gaps. Several tests only partly addressed, or the shortfalls are wide. Expect it back for revision.
0 to 49	Serious gaps. Serious deficiencies, or at least one critical test not addressed. Send it back for rework.
No score	Not scored. Not every test could be assessed. The individual findings still stand.

Read the score with the findings and scope. A capped 49 does not mean 49% safe, and equal scores do not mean equal site risk.

Passing a test here is evidence towards managing a duty or requirement, not proof that the duty has been discharged. This is not a British Standard and not a legal opinion. The statutory references behind these tests are mainly for construction work in Great Britain, and different legislation applies in Northern Ireland. **Version 2.1.0, first effective 30 July 2026 as v1.0.0.** Licensed CC BY 4.0: use it, print it, adapt it, with attribution. The full standard, the evidence basis for each test and the applicability rules are at ramsreview.co.uk/standard. Run it free on one document at ramsreview.co.uk, no sign-up.