GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS

The generic risk assessments to which this guidance refers have been developed using the formulas below. It is unlikely that generic assessments will be totally appropriate for each individual school, there may be different circumstances. They should therefore be modified by each school by applying the criteria below to the generic assessment, making that assessment specific to the specific area of work.

For example:

The risk rating in the generic assessments is calculated using the formula

Likelihood X Severity

e.g. something 'unlikely' to occur in your opinion (2) multiplied by severity rating of 'significant' (2) would result in a risk rating of 4 which is 'Tolerable' and only requires the control measures to be monitored and reviewed.

This calculation must be made with your existing precautions (control measures) in place. If you do have all, or more, of the existing precautions in the generic assessment operating then the risk factor may be lower.

If however, you have identified a particular hazard covered by a generic risk assessment and you do not have all, or any, of the existing precautions listed in place, then your risk factor will be higher and will require further action on your behalf to reduce the risk. This may involve adopting some, or all, of the 'existing precautions' listed and listing them as 'additional precautions' which are in effect further measures you need to implement to control the risk. You may also have other control measures in mind that are not listed and which are equally valid in controlling the risk. It is important that a person (or organisation e.g. EA) is identified as the person or body responsible for the remedial measures. A feasible date for implementation should also be recorded and no action by this date should prompt a reminder to the responsible person or body.

When the 'additional precautions' are implemented and the risk assessment is reviewed then the 'additional precautions' become 'existing precautions' and the risk factor is recalculated.

Probability Rating - Likelihood		
very likely	Likely to occur immediately or in the short term	4
likely	Could occur in time, or if repeated enough	3
unlikely	Though unlikely, may occur over time	2
very unlikely	Unlikely to occur	1

Severity Rating		
very serious	Single or multiple fatalities, widespread illness, large scale property/equipment damage	4
serious	Serious injury or illness, serious property/equipment damage	3
significant	Significant injury or illness, significant property/equipment damage	2
minor	Minor injuries and/or illness, minor property/equipment damage	1

Risk Assessment Matrix

	PROBABILITY/LIKELIHOOD				
SEVERITY	X	1	2	3	4
	1	1 Insignificant/ Trivial	2 Low/ Tolerable	3 Low/ Tolerable	4 Low/ Tolerable
	2	2 Low/ Tolerable	4 Low/ Tolerable	6 Medium/ Substantial	8 Medium/ Substantial
	3	3 Low/ Tolerable	6 Medium/ Substantial	9 Medium/ Substantial	12 High/ Intolerable
	4	4 Low/ Tolerable	8 Medium/ Substantial	12 Hign/ Intolerable	16 High/ Intolerable

Risk Level Description	Numerical Value
High – Intolerable. Immediate action required. Activity should be stopped until control measures can be implemented to reduce risk	12 - 16
Medium – Substantial. Activity can proceed, but with caution, ensuring control measures are maintained. Efforts should be made to control/reduce the risk.	6 - 9
Low – Tolerable. Activity can proceed. Control measures must be monitored and reviewed as required to ensure they remain suitable and sufficient.	2 - 4
Insignificant – Trivial. Monitor activity/task for future changes that would increase the risk	1