

## Probability/severity matrix

Having completed the risk assessment, you should be able to clearly identify the risk level (ie. from minimal to intolerable) and prioritise resulting actions depending on how harmful the risks are, who may be harmed, to what extent and how likely they are.

**RISK RATING = SEVERITY OF HARM x LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE**

Use the following table to assess the risk rating of each risk item:

		Severity of harm		
		Slightly Harmful	Harmful	Extremely Harmful
Likelihood of occurrence	Highly Unlikely	Minimal Risk	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk
	Unlikely	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk
	Likely	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk	Intolerable Risk

NB. Tolerable here means that risk has been reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.

Use the following table to prioritise the actions depending on the risk rating.

Risk Level	Action/ Priority	Timescale
Minimal (low)	No immediate action is required and no documentary records need to be kept.	Review annually
Tolerable (medium)	No additional controls required. Cost effective solutions should be considered. Monitoring and auditing is required to ensure that the controls are maintained.	3 - 12 months
Moderate (medium)	Activity should NOT be started or continued until the risk has been evaluated and controls implemented.	1 - 3 months
Substantial (high)	Activity should NOT be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk.	1 - 4 weeks

Intolerable (High)	Activity should NOT be started or continued until risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce the risk, even with unlimited resources, activity has to be prohibited.	Immediate
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Once actions have been completed, the risk should be re-assessed to ensure it is at a tolerable level