



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.

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 step rests on an assessed risk, and the two documents clearly connect rather than sit side by side.	9	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
2	Foreseeable hazards and controls for this trade, activity and site	Covers the hazards this activity presents on this site, with controls following 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	Locations, boundaries, exclusions and interfaces stated specifically enough to audit the rest against.	5	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
4	Programme	Duration, sequence and working hours stated well enough to judge the controls against them.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	Resources, competence and equipment	People, plant and equipment named, with competence requirements and supporting evidence (cards, tickets, certificates) where applicable.	5	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
6	Hazard identification	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, specific to this activity and location.	7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	Temporary works	Coordination, design, checks and lifting responsibilities, where the work described involves them, whatever the requirement referenced.	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 stated where applicable.	4	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
12	Environmental issues	Waste, pollution prevention, noise, permits and monitoring, 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 always applies once issued			22							
14	Addresses the risk category on your requirement	Engages the hazard category your requirement identifies. N/a if you recorded no profile or rated it from the submission.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Addresses the legislation cited on your requirement	For each piece of legislation or guidance you named, the relevant requirements are addressed in the method and controls.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	References the permit process you require	Where you call for a permit, the submission references raising and closing it.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	Addresses the temporary works you referenced	Design, inspection and coordination of the temporary works your requirement names.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	Scope matches the activity on your requirement	Neither falls short of nor overruns the activity described. Conformity, not specificity.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	Controls proportionate to the risk	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. Write a one-sentence reason for every n/a overleaf; without one it counts as unassessed. With no requirement to hand, 14 to 20 do not apply, and the result leads with its coverage ahead of the score: **"Document-only review: 13 of 20 tests assessed, applicable weight 74"**, or the actual count and weight where fewer applied.



MARKING THE SHEET

Applicability, scoring, caps and bands

The review is proportionate to the risk of the work: 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.

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, or no score is issued: report it as unavailable 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

Test

Test

Which tests apply

Always: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13, worth 50 points, and 18 once a requirement was issued. 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: 16 with no permit required, named or referenced; 17 with no temporary works referenced or linked; 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 minor on a ground floor fit-out.

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.

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 2.0.0, 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 planops.ai/inside-planops/rams-review-standard. Run it free on one document at planops.ai/rams-review, no sign-up.