



City of London Corporation Health and Safety

Guidance for Artwork risk assessment.

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1. Overview

As part of the process for approving proposals for artwork in the City, health and safety is an important consideration to ensure people and property remains safe from harm or damage. Often, there will be minimal risks associated with artwork, but some may introduce risks which need to be managed.

This short guidance will give advice on potential areas to be considered. Where needed, you should seek professional advice.

2. Glossary

Hazard – something with the ability to cause harm e.g. a sharp edge, flammable material, electricity

Risk – the likelihood a hazard will cause harm or damage and how severe that may be

3. Risk assessment

Ideally where there is a hazard, it should be removed, then it can't be a risk and cause harm, but that isn't always possible or practical, so controls can be put in place to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. This can be through using physical controls, such as securing a trailing lead so it can't cause a trip, to using procedures, such as inspection to manage the risk e.g. daily inspection for damage.

If a hazard is present, you should consider who may be harmed by it such as the those installing it e.g. a contractor, those interacting with it, e.g. the public and those who have to manage and maintain it e.g. City of London staff

Potential hazards that should be considered and examples of controls which could be used include;

Trips & slips – can the item cause a fall such as the plinth sticking out, cables such as a power supply trailing across a walkway or painting on roads or pavements reducing grip especially in wet conditions.

- Consider making the plinth smaller or more visible through height or colour so people can see the hazard.
- Secure leads or covering to prevent tripping
- Use paints with approved anti slip properties



Fall from height – can people climb on the piece (by design or not) and fall off. If accessible by wheelchair users, can they move safely without falling off raised platform edges or uncontrolled descent down a steep ramp.

- Edge protection and suitable ramp inclines for wheelchair access
- Signage warning of risk and do not climb

Cuts – are there surfaces that could cause injury or could the piece be damaged and create a sharp edge

- Are sharp edges needed-change design
- Signage warning of the risk
- Regular inspection for damage

Fire – can the item catch fire due to the materials of construction or presence of heat source which causes a fire e.g. from a power supply, lights etc. This can be a significant issue if inside a property.

- Use alternative non-flammable or less flammable materials
- Treat the material to improve fire resistance
- Regular inspection of heat sources for heat damage

Pinch points – are there gaps or moving parts which can trap a body part such as a finger, especially when a child might interact with the artwork.

- Remove by changing design
- Minimise gaps between moving parts so body parts can't access
- Cover pinch points so they can't be accessed

Instability – can the item fall over by being knocked, climbed on, or due to wind

- Secure item using a larger base or tying down
- Monitor wind speed and close/move installation when wind speed is too great
- Regular inspection to confirm stability

Electricity – can the item cause an electrical shock or cause a fire

- Ensure all electrical items are installed & inspected by a competent electrician.
- Regular inspection for damage

Where more complex pieces have identified risks, a simple risk assessment should be completed to record the hazards identified and control measures proposed and agree responsibility for their implementation. This information must be passed on to those who will be installing or managing the artwork when in situ.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) provide lots of useful guidance on the basics of risk management

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/guidance/index.htm>



General Risk Assessment Form

Risk Rating Matrix:		Severity			
		Minor	Serious	Major	Extreme
Likelihood	Likely	Low	Medium	High	High
	Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High
	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Supplier:						
Installation Address:			Review Date:			
Assessment Date:		What is being assessed?				
Name of Assessor:						
What are the hazards? [Or Issues]	Who might be harmed and how?	What are the existing controls?	Risk Rating (H, M, L)	What further action is necessary? <i>Always when Risk is <u>Medium</u> or <u>High</u></i>	Action by when / whom?	Action complete (Date)



NB - Following completion of the risk assessment you should ensure the controls identified are included within the work procedures / method statements / work instructions and safe systems of work

[HSE Guide - Five steps to risk assessment](#)