

Prohibited activities and activities that need special consideration

Young workers can lack the experience, knowledge, confidence and skills to identify and deal with potential hazards. Inexperience and a lack of awareness can increase the likelihood of a young worker being injured. There are some activities that are not suitable for students (young workers) in an approved workplace learning program and there are others where special consideration needs to be given to addressing risks.

Students cannot undertake the following:

- use of machinery or equipment which may be dangerous for new or young workers to operate is prohibited **unless** each of the following occurs:
 - the activity is first risk-assessed as suitable and safe for student operation by the host employer, along with the following:
 1. the student is given appropriate information, instruction and training and a checklist for the safe operation and handling of the equipment
 2. the equipment is in safe working order, complete with required safety devices or guards
 3. a suitably qualified or experienced person in the workplace who has good communication skills and the ability to give clear instructions provides on-going close supervision.
- the service of alcohol where the student is under 18 is prohibited; if the student is over 18 years, the activity must be essential to the placement and have been agreed to by the school or TAFE NSW Institute and the student must have completed the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Training Course
- any work of a sexual or explicit nature is prohibited
- travel by helicopter is prohibited
- air travel on charter flights and aircraft other than those providing a regular public transport service (ie on a regular route with paying passengers) is prohibited
- travel outside the 12 nautical mile limit at sea is prohibited
- scuba and deep-sea diving are prohibited
- the following 'high risk construction work' as defined in the NSW WHS Regulation 2011 Chapter 6 is prohibited: construction work in tunnels, confined spaces or involving the use of explosives or work in and around pressurised gas distribution mains or piping and energised electrical installations or services; near traffic or mobile plant, or demolition work other than simple stripping of walls etc.
- any excavation work at a depth greater than one metre or near utilities is prohibited
- any excavation work at a depth under one metre without direct supervision by a competent person, is prohibited
- work on permanent or temporary structures used to enable construction work in marine environments is prohibited

- working on a roof or in a roof cavity is prohibited
- working where asbestos is present is prohibited

- any activities involving or adjacent to the repair, removal or demolition of any construction work containing asbestos or in the clean-up process following the activity are prohibited
- attendance at a site while chimney stacks or buildings are being demolished is prohibited
- scheduled work as set out in Chapter 4 of the NSW WHS Regulation 2011 is prohibited, unless there are exceptional circumstances and the student, aged 18 or over, already has achieved the necessary certification
- any activity requiring a licence (eg. a driver's licence), permit or certificate of competence is prohibited unless:
 - the student already has the relevant current licence, permit or certificate
 - the activity is directly related to the learning outcomes of the placement
 - the activity is included in the Student Placement Record prior to approval.
- driving any old or unregistered vehicles commonly known as 'bush bashers' is prohibited.

Placements involving the driving of golf carts, quad bikes, tractors or similar farm vehicles.

Placements involving the student operation of golf carts, quad bikes, tractors or other farm vehicles **must be carefully considered**, even where these activities are considered to be essential to achieving the outcomes of the placement.

For these placements to be approved, the vehicle must be adequately risk assessed as being safe for a student to operate. Students must have successfully completed an accredited formal training course or related course competencies or have demonstrated substantial experience in the safe operation of these vehicles. Students riding quad bikes must be at least 16 years of age and wear an approved helmet with the strap in place. Required PPE other than helmets include:

- eye protection e.g. goggles
- hand protection e.g. gloves
- long sleeve shirt and full length pants
- sturdy footwear e.g. boots.

The student still needs to be closely supervised.

Students with **little or no experience must not operate these vehicles. The only exception is where** the school or relevant TAFE is satisfied before the placement is approved that the host employer can satisfactorily manage the activity for the student and has substantial experience in providing the appropriate quality training and on-going close supervision.

In order to ensure the school or TAFE is satisfied that the activity is safe; the risk assessment by the host employer must be documented and sighted by the school principal/TAFE Institute manager or nominee prior to approval.

Placements in meat processing plants

Placements in **meat processing plants** are subject to **mandatory requirements**. The Australian Meat Industry Council can be contacted on telephone (02) 9086 2200 for the information package to support school student workplace learning in meat processing plants or refer to <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/worklearn/meat.html> .

Placements involving equine work

No matter how experienced or competent a student may be in riding or working with horses, there are still potentially extreme risks. Extreme caution is needed to avoid injury or disability. See [Guide to managing risks when new and inexperienced persons interact with horses](#).

Placements in the construction industry

All workplace learning in the construction industry requires as a pre-requisite that the student completes Work Health and Safety induction training for construction work and holds the construction induction training card (CIC or 'white card'). Where a student has independently undertaken induction training for construction online through a registered training organisation in another state or territory, they must complete additional safety training arranged by the school to ensure they are fully prepared for their workplace learning in construction.

Workplace supervisors must make students aware of the risks associated with handling and operating all tools and equipment the student is to use and how to manage those risks.

While some tools and equipment common in industry are not permitted for use by students in a school setting, the construction teacher will indicate the appropriate tools and equipment that the individual student could use on work placement. Further advice is available from the student's school or TAFE NSW Institute and in some cases from the Work Placement Service Provider.

There should always be close supervision of a young worker when there is a risk of a fall. For example; where a student is on an elevated level, near an opening or in the vicinity of an edge. Minimising the risk of a fall may include physical restraints or barriers.

Can students drive vehicles during the placement?

No. Students are not expected to drive their own vehicles whilst undertaking activities on behalf of the host employer. They are also not expected to drive the employer's vehicles nor the client's vehicles whilst on placement. Any driving of vehicles is expected to be rare, and must be detailed on the Student Placement Record prior to placement approval. Students need to be reminded that it is against the law to use a mobile phone whilst driving.

Who can I contact for more advice?

If you are concerned about safety risks for an activity proposed for a placement, please contact the Workplace Learning Adviser in Senior Pathways on (02) 9244 5425 for further advice.