

Risk Assessment and Hierarchy of Controls

1. Risk Assessment

- Risk assessment is the process of identifying potential hazards, evaluating the risks associated with them, and implementing measures to control or eliminate those risks.
- Steps in Risk Assessment:
 - a) Identify the hazard.
 - b) Determine who might be harmed and how.
 - c) Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions.
 - d) Record findings and implement them.
 - e) Review and update the assessment regularly.

2. Hierarchy of Controls

- A system used to minimize or eliminate exposure to hazards. It ranks control strategies from most effective to least effective:
 - a) Elimination: Physically remove the hazard (most effective).
 - b) Substitution: Replace the hazard with a less dangerous one.
 - c) Engineering Controls: Isolate people from the hazard (e.g., fume hoods).
 - d) Administrative Controls: Change the way people work (e.g., training, SOPs).
 - e) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Protect the worker with equipment (least effective).
- The most effective controls should be considered first whenever feasible.