

## Working On The Stage / Performance Space

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### Relevant Legislation and Documents

ASNZS 4860      Hazardous Substances & New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996

These hazards will all be controlled through appropriate planning by all involved in various areas and departments. All supervisors should be required to prove that their risk assessment/s and planning process have addressed these hazards. The relevant Supervisor should, where necessary, consult the director and other relevant personnel in the completion of risk assessments for issues associated with performance hazards and how such hazards will be controlled. Copies of the risk assessment/s and risk management plan should be made available to all employees and sub contractors on request. Flag with your Supervisor if any of these issues have not been addressed.

For any sequences involving stunts, fights, aerial, acrobatic work, or any work identified in the Risk Assessment as requiring specialist supervision, an appropriately qualified and experienced Safety Supervisor should be engaged to supervise the set-up of such sequences and, if necessary, to supervise their ongoing operation.

Most of the hazards associated with performance will be in the category of:

- Set interaction.
- Interaction between members of cast, crew, musicians and the audience.
- Specific hazards associated with performance.
- Set interaction hazards include the following:
  - Stage lifts, holes, openings, pits, revolves, traps and elevated areas.
  - Inappropriate performance surfaces including inadequately supported floors.
  - Inappropriate performance surfaces for dancers, such as floors that are not sprung.
  - Raked and/or moving stages and/or moving set.
  - Tripping on uneven surfaces, slipping on wet or greasy surfaces.
  - Inadequate fall protection systems.
  - Crew or performers being in the wrong place on stage at the wrong time (including performers missing their marks).
  - Inadequate access and egress points on multi-level sets.
  - Moving scenery flown incorrectly or unsafely.
  - Machinery and equipment failure.
  - Scene changes.
  - Placement of props near unprotected edges.
  - Design and operation of swings, harnesses, etc.
  - Costume and wig design.
  - Maintenance of costumes and wigs in safe hygienic working order.

- Moving through different light levels from very bright stage lighting to dim backstage lighting.
- Makeup including allergy sensitivity.
- Design and application of prosthetic makeup.
- Difficulty associated with costume changes arising from the design of the costumes.
- Inappropriate crew clothing and/or footwear.
- Potential exposure of costumes, including underwear, to naked flame.
- Insufficient rest and food breaks.
- Inadequate crewing levels.
- Automated stage machinery
- Practical light fittings on sets
- Obstructions in wings EG: booms, truck units)
- Performance interaction hazards include the following:
  - Choreographed dance scenes.
  - Choreographed fighting scenes.
  - Scenes utilising firearms and/or weapons.
  - Acrobatic, aerial and stunt sequences.
  - Use of performance devices such as roller blades, stilts, cycles, etc.
  - Aggression from crowds or affection from over exuberant fans.
  - Involvement of children in the performance.
  - Involvement of animals in the performance.
- Specific hazards associated with performance include:
  - Exposure to substances, lasers and other physical hazards including special effects such as explosives, dry ice, smoke, fog machines and pyrotechnics.
  - Inadequate warm up time and inadequate performance preparation.
  - Inadequate access to appropriate medical/physio or other therapy support.
  - General fatigue or specific fatigue associated with high levels of physical exertion or unusual or awkward physical postures or activities.
  - Nudity.
  - Overuse injury associated with performance activity.
  - Back strain (see manual handling chapter and appendix)
  - Vehicles of any kind on stage.
  - Water on stage.
  - Climate and environmental considerations including temperature and humidity (both indoor and outdoor), rain, hail, sleet, snow, fog, lightning, sun, wind, tides, current and water conditions.

- Stress or work related aggression.
- Noise and light levels.
- Inadequate, dangerous or faulty communication systems.
- Remotely operated or automated stage machinery.

Most of these hazards are discussed in other chapters, but if not you should set about making a risk assessment and managing that risk.