



WORK HEALTH & SAFETY FACTSHEET

FACTSHEET 8 – Plant and Structures

Definition of plant	WHS Act Part 1, WHS Regulations 185
<p>Plant includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool; and• any component of any of those things; and• anything fitted or connected to any of those things. <p>The General Duties of the WHS Regulations Part 5.1 apply to plant except plant that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• relies exclusively on manual power for its operation; and• is designed to be primarily supported by hand <p>but does apply to explosive power tools that are designed to be supported by hand.</p>	
Definition of structures	WHS Act Part 1, WHS Regulations 185
<p>Structure means anything that is constructed, whether fixed or moveable, temporary or permanent, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• buildings, masts, towers, framework, pipelines, transport infrastructure and underground works (shafts or tunnels); and any component or part of a structure. <p>The General Duties of the WHS Regulations 5.1 apply to structures.</p>	
General duties in relation to plant and structures	WHS Regulations: Part 5.1
<p>General duties that apply to plant and structures are imposed on PCBUs that design, manufacture, supply (including supply of second-hand plant), install, construct or commission, manage or control plant.</p> <p>Aspects of plant that general duties apply to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of information;• Identification of hazards and control of risks;• Maintenance and inspection;• Guarding and insulation, operational and emergency controls, and warning devices; and• Securing of plant not in use; and prevention of unauthorised alterations or interference.	
Additional and specific control measures for specific plant	WHS Regulations: 214-226
<p>Additional and specific controls are required for the following plant including consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Powered mobile plant - provision of operator protective devices, persons on plant, others in the work area etc.;• Tractors - roll-over protection;• Earthmoving machinery - protective structures;• Industrial lift trucks - suitability of attachments, risks to operators and others, persons on plant;• Plant that lifts or suspends loads - design, safe working limits, path of movement, control of load;• Plant used in connection with tree lopping - risk assessments, competency, fall prevention;• Industrial robots - control of the area, presence-sensing devices, permit to work etc.;• Lasers - prevention of accidental irradiation, exposure to radiation, training etc.;• Pressure equipment - inspection, marking and filling of gas cylinders;• Scaffolds - construction and inspection by competent persons, unauthorised access; and• Plant with presence sensing safeguarding systems - records of testing, maintenance, installation etc.	

