

Workplace Learning Prohibited Activities

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.

Schools and host employers will need to consider and take into account the competency, maturity and physical capabilities of the student in relation to all activities he or she will undertake.

Students cannot undertake these prohibited and [high-risk construction](#) activities:

- any work of a sexual or explicit nature
- travel by helicopter
- travel outside the 12 nautical mile limit at sea
- scuba and deep-sea diving
- any excavation work at a depth greater than one metre or near utilities
- any excavation work at a depth under one metre without direct supervision by a competent person
- work on permanent or temporary structures used to enable construction work in marine environments
- work on a roof, roof trusses or in a roof cavity
- work where asbestos is present
- 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
- construction work in tunnels, confined spaces or involving the use of explosives
- work in and around pressurised gas distribution mains or piping and energised electrical installations or services
- be in close proximity to traffic or mobile plant operating on a worksite. Students are to attend onsite induction and traffic management meetings. Host employers are to closely supervise students, especially when plant is operating, and question students to ensure understanding of no-go areas and related safety procedures
- demolition work other than simple stripping of walls
- attendance at a site while chimney stacks or buildings are being demolished
- driving any old or unregistered vehicles commonly known as 'bush bashers'.

Additionally, the following activities should not be undertaken by students.

- Use of machinery or equipment which **may** be dangerous for new or young workers to operate is prohibited **unless** the activity is first risk-assessed as suitable and safe for student operation by the host employer and each of the following occurs:
 - a) the student is given appropriate information, instruction and training and a checklist for the safe operation and handling of the equipment
 - b) the equipment is in safe working order, complete with required safety devices or guards
 - c) a suitably qualified or experienced person in the workplace who has good communication skills and the ability to give clear instructions provides ongoing close supervision.
- The service of alcohol where the student is under 18 years of age is prohibited. If the student is over 18 years of age, the activity must be essential to the placement and have been agreed to by the school or EVET provider, and the student must have completed the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training course.
- Air travel on charter flights and aircraft is prohibited, other than those providing a regular public transport service such as on a regular route with paying passengers.
- Any activity requiring a licence such as a driver's licence or permit, or certificate of competence is prohibited unless:
 - a) the student already has the relevant current licence, permit or certificate
 - b) the activity is directly related to the learning outcomes of the placement
 - c) the activity is included in the Student Placement Record prior to approval.

For further information, please contact the NSW Department of Education by email: seniorpathways@det.nsw.edu.au