

5-minute talk for **Work authorisation**

Use this 5-minute talk in team discussions, like start of shift, morning, or pre-tower meetings, to help bring the Life Saving Rules to life. First, review the rule briefly with the team, then use the prompts to engage the group and start a discussion, or share a personal example of how you've experienced the rule.

Work Authorisation



Work with a valid permit when required

- I have confirmed if a permit is required
- I am authorised to perform the work
- I understand the permit
- I have confirmed that hazards are controlled and it is safe to start
- I stop and reassess if conditions change



Case Study

A terminal process system was pressuring up at the final stage of whole plant shut down for maintenance, a gas leakage was found around the door of a Refrigeration Unit filter. Two Mechanics were informed to fix it. After the filter was depressurised by one of the duty operators, they started working on the filter without authorisation from the site management. While the Junior Mechanic was loosening the bolts under the instruction of the Senior Mechanic, the door burst open fatally injuring the Senior Mechanic.

Discussion prompts

What is stopping a similar incident (work authorisation) from happening at our site?

Facilitator background notes

- Work authorisation is more than just a person in charge signing a Permit to Work form: it is seeking and having authorisation to start, resume, or hand-over a task.
- The person in charge of the work confirms that it is safe to start, that controls are in place and effective and the task can be performed as planned, and includes what you are doing in relation to other activities that may affect each other (aka Simultaneous operations)
- If anything changes during the work, stop and reassess. Examples include:
 - Handover
 - Change of personnel
 - Weather
 - Different or missing equipment
 - Changes in surrounding operations