



THE PLANOPS RAMS REVIEW STANDARD

The twenty tests

One page. Print it, put it next to the submission, work down the list. For each test record a verdict, and for anything short of met record a severity. The list of what you tested is the review. Scoring, caps and bands are overleaf.

CRITERION		THE TEST	WT	VERDICT				SEVERITY		
Part 1 Is the risk assessment real? Document-only			18	met	part	not	n/a	crit	maj	min
1	Method statement supported by risk assessment	Every safety-significant method step rests on an assessed risk, and the two documents clearly connect to each other rather than sit side by side.	9	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	Foreseeable hazards and controls for this trade, activity and site	Covers the hazards this activity presents on this site, with controls following the hierarchy of control.	9	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 2 Does the method statement say enough? Document-only. Each asks: present, specific, adequate?			56							
3	Scope of works stated and specific	Locations, boundaries, exclusions and interfaces stated specifically enough to audit the rest against.	5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	Programme	Duration, sequence and working hours stated well enough to judge the controls against them.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	Resources, competence and equipment	People, plant and equipment are named, with competence requirements and supporting evidence (cards, tickets, certificates) where applicable.	5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	Hazard identification	Hazards are task-specific rather than generic, with competent input where needed and review or authorisation under the contractor's own arrangements.	7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	Control measures	Supervision, permits, inspection regimes, briefings and PPE are specified and workable.	8	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	Emergency arrangements	Rescue, first aid, welfare and raising the alarm, specific to this activity and location.	7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	Temporary works	Coordination, design, checks and lifting responsibilities addressed where the activity involves them.	6	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	Interface with others and the public	Segregation, signage, security, dust and noise controls address who else is affected.	5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	Training and information	Induction, task briefing, specialist training and card requirements are stated where applicable.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	Environmental issues	Waste, pollution prevention, noise, permits and monitoring are addressed where the activity or project requires them.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	Monitoring and review	Checking, enforcement, change management and briefing records are described.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 3 Does it answer the requirement you issued? Needs the requirement in front of you			22							
14	Addresses the risk category on your requirement	The submission engages the specific hazard category your requirement identifies.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Addresses the legislation cited on your requirement	For each piece of legislation or guidance you named, the relevant requirements are addressed in the method and controls.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	References the permit process you require	Where you call for a permit, the submission references raising and closing it.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	Addresses the temporary works you referenced	Design, inspection and coordination of the temporary works your requirement names.	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	Scope matches the activity on your requirement	The submitted scope neither falls short of nor overruns the activity described. Conformity, not specificity.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	Controls proportionate to the risk	Controls are proportionate to the actual foreseeable risk, taking account of the risk level recorded on the requirement.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part 4 Does it meet your own rules? Needs your organisation rules			4							
20	Organisation requirements	Gaps against client standards, framework conditions and site rules beyond the regulations. Cite each by its exact reference. If none were issued, mark not applicable and invent nothing.	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Without the requirement in front of you, tests 14 to 20 have nothing to compare against. Mark them not applicable and score the thirteen document-only tests over a weight of **74**. Never guess them from the document, and never score their absence as a failure. Put the subset on the face of the result, ahead of the score: **"Document-only review: 13 of 20 tests assessed, applicable weight 74"**.



MARKING THE SHEET

Scoring, caps and bands

The score is arithmetic over the verdicts you recorded on the front. Nobody is asked for a number, so every point lost is traceable to a named test.

How to use it

- 1. Have the requirement you issued to hand: risk category, legislation cited, permit, temporary works reference, activity description, risk level, and your own rules if any.
- 2. Record a verdict against all twenty: **met**, **partially met**, **not met** or **does not apply**. Not applicable covers a test the activity does not engage, and a test whose comparison material you do not hold.
- 3. For anything partially met or not met, record a severity. **Critical**: work under this could kill or seriously injure someone. **Major**: a material gap to close before work starts. **Minor**: a limited deficiency that would not, on its own, materially affect safe execution.
- 4. Score it, or skip the arithmetic and apply the caps alone: any critical not met, serious gaps, send it back. Any critical partially met, significant gaps. Any major finding, at best gaps to close.
- 5. Return the verdicts with the review. The list of what was tested is the review.

The arithmetic

VERDICT	FACTOR	SEVERITY	FACTOR
Met	0	Critical	1.0
Partially met	0.5	Major	0.6
Not met	1.0	Minor	0.25
Does not apply	out of denominator	None	0

```
applicable_weight = sum of weights that apply
deduction(i) = weight(i) x verdict x severity
before_caps = 100 x (applicable_weight
                    - sum of deductions)
                / applicable_weight
score = round( min(before_caps, cap) )
cap = 100 when no cap condition applies
```

No deduction can exceed its own weight, so the score sits inside 0 to 100 by construction.

Caps

Applied after the arithmetic. Lowest cap wins.

WHEN	MAX	WHY
Any test not met at critical severity	49	One critical failure (no rescue plan, no temporary works design) belongs in the bottom band whatever else the document does well.
Any test partially met at critical severity	69	A partly addressed critical risk cannot sit above significant gaps.
Any test not met or partially met at major severity	89	The top band is defined by the absence of material gaps. A major finding contradicts that, however small the weight.

Bands

Band names describe the RAMS overall. They are not descriptions of the severity of individual findings: one major finding places the whole document in the gaps-to-close band.

SCORE	BAND AND WHAT IT MEANS
90 to 100	No material gaps. Nothing flagged that would hold this up at review. Any findings are minor and do not, on their own, affect safe execution.
70 to 89	Gaps to close. The substance is there, but at least one material gap remains. Work should not start until the points listed are closed.
50 to 69	Significant gaps. Several tests only partly addressed, or the shortfalls are wide. Expect it back for revision rather than accepted as issued.
0 to 49	Serious gaps. Serious deficiencies, or at least one critical test not addressed. Send it back for rework.
No score	Not scored. Not every test could be assessed, so no overall result is issued. The individual findings still stand.

Two rules that keep a score honest

- Coverage.** Every test carries a verdict. A score from a partial assessment is not a score: report it as unavailable and name what was missed.
- Unavailable.** If the review could not be read or completed, the score is null with a stated reason. Zero is a real score, reserved for a submission that fails every applicable test at critical severity. It never means could not assess.

Worked example

Everything met except emergency arrangements (test 8, weight 7), not met at major severity. No organisation requirements were issued, so test 20 does not apply. Deduction $7 \times 1.0 \times 0.6 = 4.2$ of 96 applicable, which is 95.6 before caps. The major-finding cap brings it to **89, gaps to close**. A major gap cannot sit in the top band.

Passing a test here is evidence towards managing a duty or requirement, not proof that the duty has been discharged. This is not a British Standard and not a legal opinion. The statutory references behind these tests are mainly for construction work in Great Britain, and different legislation applies in Northern Ireland. **Version 1.2.1, first effective 30 July 2026 as v1.0.0.** Licensed CC BY 4.0: use it, print it, adapt it, with attribution. The argument behind it, the duty each test evidences and the full method are at planops.ai/inside-planops/rams-review-standard. Run it free on one document at planops.ai/rams-review, no sign-up.