

Eliminate If you can eliminate an identified hazard, by taking a different design decision, you must do this: (1) if it is a mandatory requirement or a specific obligation; but otherwise (2) so far as is reasonably practicable. [ACoP paragraph 127](#)

For example, placing an air handling unit at ground level instead of at height, on a wall, eliminates the hazard of 'working at height'.

However, you will need to consider other hazards that might be introduced (obstructions, tripping) or risks that remain as a consequence of this action.

If the identified hazard cannot be eliminated:

Reduce The designer must reduce the remaining risks associated with the hazard, so far as is reasonably practicable. [ACoP paragraphs 128–130](#)

For example, hard landscaping is designed such that there is space around the foot of the wall, and a level surface with access, for a scissor lift to be used to install and maintain the air handling unit, as ladders are not appropriate in this instance.

Alternatively, if it was in fact reasonably practicable to install the unit at ground level, it is likely that there would be some residual risks associated with that placement, such as tripping. These risks must also be reduced.

The ACoP recognises that the weight given to a particular risk will be proportionate to its assessed likelihood, severity, the number of people affected, and frequency or duration of the exposure. This will be a professional judgement but guided by relevant good practice.

In reducing risk, there is a hierarchy to be observed which is described in 2.3.3.

And then, if significant risks remain:

Inform Provide information on these risks to the contractor, or those using or maintaining the structure. [ACoP paragraphs 131–134](#)

For example, maintenance strategy statement to go in the health and safety file. Proposed access discussed with the client.

Control Providing the design does not change, and no other influence comes to bear (such as a change to the landscaping), then the control of the risks on site during construction or maintenance are the responsibilities of those undertaking the work. The designer is not involved.

Figure 10 The ERIC approach to risk management