



Manufacturing Risk Assessment Overhaul

Client Overview

A long-established UK engineering and fabrication business employing around 90 people across two sites approached Safety Canvas Consulting to review and modernise its risk assessment process. The company's operations covered welding, fabrication, CNC machining, forklift operations, and general workshop activities. Over time, its safety documentation had grown complex and inconsistent, with multiple versions of similar assessments, outdated controls, and unclear responsibilities.

Challenge

The existing system contained more than 120 risk assessments, many duplicated or obsolete. Supervisors were unsure which version applied, risk ratings were inconsistent, and reviews were often reactive rather than planned.

Our Approach

Safety Canvas Consulting delivered an eight-week structured improvement programme built around collaboration, clarity and practicality:

- **Discovery and triage:** Every existing risk assessment was reviewed, categorised, and scored against relevance, completeness and accuracy. A single scoring matrix was introduced to ensure consistent risk evaluation.
- **Workshops and engagement:** Interactive hazard workshops were held with supervisors and operatives across welding, grinding, CNC, manual handling, and forklift truck operations. This ensured the new assessments reflected real-world conditions rather than assumptions from management.
- **Control alignment:** The new framework embedded the hierarchy of controls—elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative and PPE measures—into every assessment. Standard operating procedures were directly linked to task-based controls, making it easier for supervisors to reference and enforce.
- **Digital integration:** A streamlined, digital risk assessment register was created, assigning document ownership, review dates and reminders. Dashboards provided at-a-glance oversight for managers and enabled faster tracking of overdue reviews.

Results

Within three months of implementation, the client achieved measurable improvements:

- 35% reduction in high and medium residual risks, achieved through clearer task segregation and elimination of duplicated hazards.
- 100% of critical risk assessments brought up to date, with automated reminders ensuring future reviews stay on schedule.
- Improved supervisor confidence and accountability, as line managers could now access clear, current information relevant to their teams.
- Faster decision-making and review cycles, reducing administrative effort while increasing focus on genuine risk reduction.

Outcome

The new risk assessment system not only simplified compliance but created a sustainable process that engages employees, reduces unnecessary paperwork, and strengthens safety leadership at the shop-floor level. Safety Canvas Consulting continues to support the client with periodic audits and refresher sessions to ensure standards remain high and continuous improvement stays on track.