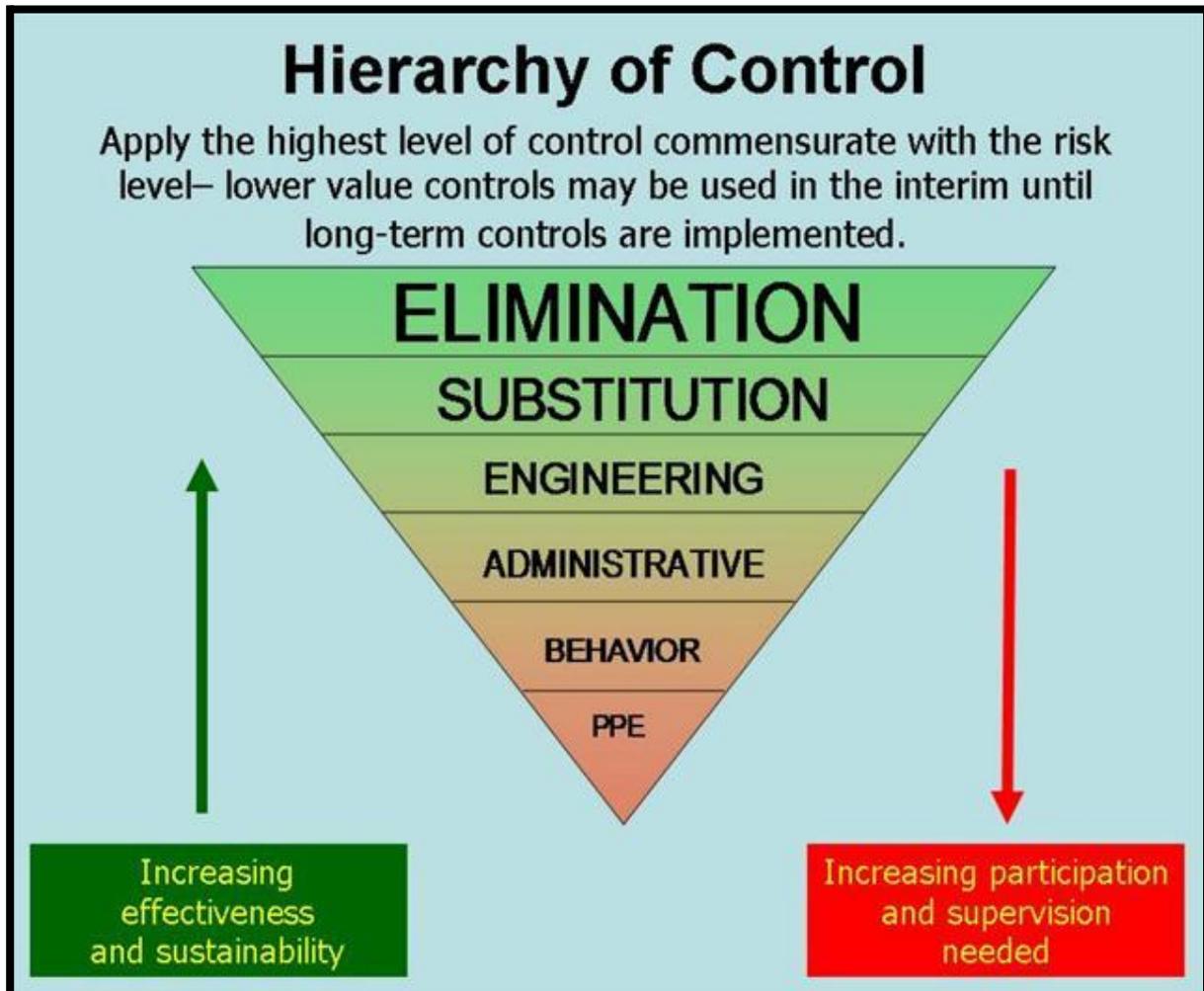


Hierarchy of Control Chart



The Hierarchy of Control Chart should always be considered when deciding how to eliminate a hazard

The preferred way to remove a hazard is to eliminate it altogether. The least preferred way to try to remove a hazard is to just rely on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to overcome the problem.

For example, a company buys pipe from a supplier in standard lengths of 1.2 metres. The manufacturing department needs these pipes cut with a docking saw to 1.1 metres in length to use as work bench legs as per engineering design drawings. 100 benches per week are made therefore 400 pipes are cut each week. An employee received a bad cut to his wrist from sharp edges left after cutting a pipe even though he was wearing leather gloves and had been trained on how to perform the task.

After investigation and discussion with the engineering department and the customer who buys the benches, it was found that length of the legs could be left at 1.2 metres as this is in fact a preferred bench height. The need to cut the pipes in future has been eliminated. Without a proper investigation the solution may have only been that heavier gloves are required or at worst, nothing done at all. While heavier gloves may reduce the risk of cuts, the situation is still not resolved as it relies on the person actually using the gloves supplied. New issues may result such as difficulty in handling the pipe and operating the saw due to the extra thickness of the leather, possible skin irritation issues in the summer caused by heavy sweating, and additional costs to the employer for the gloves.

In the case above, as cutting the pipes is no longer a requirement, the hazard has been totally eliminated. You can easily see how much better it is for all parties to try to find the best solution to hazard removal from as far up the Hierarchy of Control as possible. Think of a potential hazard in your workplace and identify a control above the level of PPE that would reduce or eliminate the risk. Write the hazard and the control you have identified.

Hazard _____

Control to reduce or eliminate risk _____