HAY SAFETY

1. Pre-Arrival Communication

- [ ] Confirm delivery details with truck driver.
- [ ] Provide site instructions.
- [ ] Ensure driver understands site OH&S requirements.

2. Truck Arrival & Positioning

- [ ] Ensure truck parks on level ground in the designated area.
- [ ] Identify exclusion and high-risk zones around unloading area.
- [ ] Communicate unloading plan clearly with the driver.
- [ ] Correct any unsafe actions immediately.

3. Unloading Safety

- [ ] Mark out exclusion zone (allareas where machinery operates).
- [ ] Mark out high-risk zone (areas exposed to falling bales).
- [ ] Ensure only authorised personnel are in exclusion zone.
- [ ] Walk around the trailer to check bales and load stability before releasing straps.
- [ ] Moisture test all bales (maximum 18% moisture) and segregate any high-moisture bales.
- [ ] Undo straps carefully; roll them up after unloading.



4. Machinery & Operator Safety

- [ ] Inspect machinery before use:tyres,windows,fuel,safety lights, hay forks.
- [ ] Only the operator should be inside the exclusion zone during unloading.
- [ ] Maintain 360° awareness of surroundings at all times.
- [ ] Align bales correctly on hay forks before moving to stack.
- [ ] Do not exceed safe hay fork height.

5. Stacking Hay

- [ ] Clearobstacles(shed beams, machinery, other hay stacks).
- [ ] Ensure stable and level ground for stacking.
- [ ] Use bricked and stepped stacking for stability.
- [ ] Place soft or unstable bales on top or aside, never at the bottom.
- [ ] Avoid over-stacking to prevent bales from falling.
- [ ] Keep clear access paths to stacks.

For Hay Safety videos, training, posters & more ...

SCAN ME

feedstandardsaustralia.com.au/hay-safety-day/

6. Post-Unloading

- [ ] Rollup straps afterunloading.
- [ ] Sweep trailer of leftover hay to prevent road hazards.
- [ ] Give final departure instructions to the truck driver.
- [ ] Review the unloading and stacking process with your team to identify improvements.

Don't leave safety to chance.
Use this checklist and explore more Feed Standards Australia hay safety resources online, because safe hay is good hay!

BUILT FOR HAY ›

FEED STANDARDS Australia by Feed Central

FEEDcentral Trading

Feed Central's LocalAg Marketplace

STORAGE SAFETY Checklist

Talk to your team and family about safety

1. Pre-Storage Planning

- ☐ Confirm the storage location is safe, stable and suitable for the size of the hay stack.
- ☐ Check that the ground is level and free of debris.
- ☐ Identify any overhead obstacles such as beams or power lines that may interfere with stacking.
- ☐ Ensure the stacking area has good ventilation to help control moisture and temperature.

2. Moisture & Quality Control

- ☐ Test hay moisture levels before stacking.
- ☐ Moisture readings should not exceed 18 per cent to reduce the risk of spontaneous combustion.
- ☐ Separate or clearly mark any high-moisture bales for use or drying elsewhere.
- ☐ Inspect bales for mould, damage or contamination before they enter the shed.

3. Stacking Safety

- ☐ Use thebrickand step stacking method to build a stable, secure stack.
- ☐ Start with a solid, even base layer.
- ☐ Step the stack at exposed ends to reduce the chance of bales falling forward.
- ☐ Place soft or unstable bales at the top of the stack or set them aside, never at the base.
- ☐ Avoid stacking too high to ensure stability and safety for workers.

4. Access & Exclusion Zones

- ☐ Establishandclearly mark exclusion zonesaround the hay stack where there is a risk of falling bales.
- ☐ Keep walkways clear and make sure equipment and vehicles have safe access paths.
- ☐ Restrict non-essential personnel from entering the stacking and unloading area.

5. Machinery & Handling

- ☐ Inspect handling equipment before use.
- ☐ Ensure hay forks are fitted securely and machinery is in good working order.
- ☐ Operate machinery slowly and steadily, maintaining good visibility.
- ☐ Never work or stand underneath raised bales.

6. Fire Prevention & Control

- ☐ Ensuregoodventilation in haystorage areas to help manage temperature and moisture.
- ☐ Keep fire extinguishers or firefighting equipment accessible and in working order.
- ☐ Maintain clear access for emergency vehicles.
- ☐ Never store fuel, oil or chemicals near hay stacks.
- ☐ Regularly monitor hay temperature for signs of heating or spontaneous combustion.

7. Monitoring & Maintenance

- ☐ Conduct regularvisualinspectionsof thestackfor shifting, leaning or loose bales.
- ☐ Check ventilation, lighting and access areas frequently.
- ☐ Record moisture and temperature readings during storage.
- ☐ Reinforce exclusion zones and update signage if needed.
- ☐ Remove any damaged or unstable bales immediately.

For Hay Safety videos, training, posters & more ...

SCAN ME

feedstandardsaustralia.com.au/hay-safety-day/

BUILT FOR HAY ›

FEED STANDARDS Australia by Feed Central

FEEDcentral Trading

Feed Central's LocalAg Marketplace

SHED SAFETY

Talk to your team and family about safety

1. Pre-Work Planning

- [ ] Identify the tasks to be completed and any potential hazards.
- [ ] Check that all required tools and equipment are available and in good condition.
- [ ] Communicate work plans with everyone on site.
- [ ] Make sure everyone is trained or supervised for the task.

2. Access & Environment

- [ ] Keep entrances, pathways and exits clear at all times.
- [ ] Ensure floors are level, dry and free from trip or slip hazards.
- [ ] Maintain proper ventilation, especially if using machinery or chemicals.
- [ ] Provide adequate lighting in all work areas.

3. Machinery & Tools

- [ ] Inspectallmachinery andpower tools before use.
- [ ] Use guards, lockouts or barriers where required.
- [ ] Store cords, hoses and equipment properly to prevent tripping.
- [ ] Turn off and secure equipment when not in use.

4. Fire & Emergency Preparedness

- [ ] Keep fireextinguishersserviced andaccessible.
- [ ] Store fuels, oils and chemicals in approved containers and away from ignition sources.
- [ ] Mark and maintain clear emergency exits.
- [ ] Make sure everyone knows the evacuation procedures and meeting points.

5. Personal Protective Equipment

- [ ] Wear appropriatefootwearsuch assteel-capped orenclosed boots.
- [ ] Use gloves, hearing protection or eye protection where needed.
- [ ] Wear high-visibility clothing if vehicles or machinery are operating nearby.
- [ ] Store PPE properly when not in use.

6. Storage & Housekeeping

- [ ] Stack materialssafely and securely.
- [ ] Store heavy items at waist height where possible.
- [ ] Dispose of waste and offcuts regularly.
- [ ] Keep fire exits and access to first aid kits clear at all times.

6. Ongoing Safety Checks

- [ ] Report andfix hazardsimmediately.
- [ ] Review safety procedures regularly with the team.
- [ ] Conduct regular inspections of the shed structure, lighting and electrical systems.
- [ ] Keep first aid kits stocked and easily accessible.

For Hay Safety videos, training, posters & more ...

SCAN ME

feedstandardsaustralia.com.au/hay-safety-day/

BUILT FOR HAY ›

FEED STANDARDS Australia by Feed Central

FEEDcentral Trading

Feed Central's LocalAg Marketplace