



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Proudly Sponsored by the Safety Institute of Australia (Victoria Division)
 National Office: PO Box 2078, GLADSTONE PARK Victoria 3043
 Website: www.sia.org.au Email: natadmin@vic.sia.org.au

Issue 83 January 29 2007
 ISSN 1832-6714
 Supplied by SAFETY AT WORK magazine

CONTENTS

QLD	Break-through truck fatigue laws will go ahead
FED	New national licences for forklift operators and changes to forklift definition
NSW	Unions want same workplace policing powers as government
VIC	Worker crushed to death by excavator
SA	SafeWork SA urges workplace safety as new year's resolution
WA	Indian electrician crushed by tanker lift
TAS	Two young men electrocuted in powerline accident
TAS	Forest worker fatally struck by falling tree limb
VIC	WorkSafe Victoria warns employers about workplace deaths
SA	Heavy Fine After Half Tonne Load Injures Teenage Employee
Note to ALL SIA Members from the National Secretary	

Break-through truck fatigue laws will go ahead

January 24 2007

Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads Paul Lucas has reiterated the State Government's commitment to major reform of the heavy vehicle industry.

"From March First, a small minority of truck drivers who break the law will find it much harder to dodge their responsibility not to use our roads while fatigued to meet unrealistic delivery deadlines" Mr Lucas said.

Mr Lucas was responding to protests by a small group of owner drivers who claim they're being victimised by the new laws.

"On the one hand they claim government safety regulations are making business difficult for them, yet they also complain about unscrupulous competitors who undercut them by breaking the law. Fatigue related crashes are avoidable but some heavy vehicle drivers continue to push themselves to limit and the results can be fatal", Mr Lucas said.

The statistics speak for themselves. Last year there were 54 deaths from crashes involving heavy vehicles. Truck driver fatigue was identified as the cause of 3 of the fatalities. Queensland's new laws don't increase fines, but for the first time introduce demerit points.

The penalties include:

- 3 demerit points and a \$600 fine for failing to carry a log book or record the required information in the logbook;
- up to 3 demerit points and up to a \$600 fine for exceeding regulated total driving/work hours (in 24-hour period);
- up to 3 demerit points and up to a \$600 fine for exceeding regulated continuous driving/work hours;
- up to 3 demerit points and up to a \$600 fine for not taking a regulated rest break;
- up to 3 demerit points and a \$1500 fine for driving against a prohibition imposed by a transport inspector or police officer for a prior breach of the regulation.

Queensland led Australia in introducing Chain of Responsibility laws which target the Mr. Bigs who make truckies drive unfair and unsafe hours.

Now we are leading the nation with demerit points for fatigue related offences.

"My message is simple - Break the law and you could lose your licence", Mr Lucas said. "This is not a popularity contest. If you're driving dangerous hours, then you're a ticking time bomb. You risk not only killing yourself but other innocent road users. I want to make it crystal clear that 99% of truck drivers do a good job and need protection from the rogue operators who do the wrong thing."

Mr Lucas said, "I've had concerns certain trucking bosses might be paying the fines of drivers caught for fatigue offences."

The introduction of demerit points will level the playing field and applies to this perilous practice whether you are a millionaire or a battler - and so it should.

Source: Minister for Transport and Main Roads

ADVERTISING

A limited amount of advertising has been approved by the Safety Institute of Australia.

If you want to advertise to over 3,000 safety professionals in Australia, please contact Joanne at the SIA Secretariat through natadmin@sia.org.au

Continued on page 2

Page 1





SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 1

New national licences for forklift operators and changes to forklift definition

January 23, 2007

A new standard will soon require all forklift operators to hold a national licence issued by WorkSafe.

The National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work will come into effect on July 1, and will make it compulsory for forklift operators to hold a national licence. Currently, WorkSafe issues national Certificates of Competency for forklift operation on a non-compulsory basis.

Workers currently operating forklifts in accordance with the current requirements are still permitted to work during a transitional period that allows operators to convert their existing certificates to a national licence subject to meeting application and assessment requirements. But those operating forklifts for the first time from July 1 2007 will need to obtain a national licence first.

The new licence will be renewable every five years, and is aimed at ensuring that forklift operators have the skills and knowledge to perform this high-risk work safely and competently. It will also provide the twin benefits of national consistency and portability, while also addressing concerns in some sectors with the current system of certification.

July 1 2007 will also see a change in the definition of a forklift with regard to one particular item of plant. The multi tool carrier – also known as a telescopic handler – will cease to be classified as a forklift or industrial lift truck. Currently the way in which the machine is configured determines its plant classification and whether or not a national Certificate of Competency is required to operate it.

But as from July 1 multi tool carriers will not be classified as forklifts, even when fitted with tines or fork-arms. The reason for this is that the National Licensing Standard includes in its definition of a forklift the word “mast”, a typical feature of counter-balance type forklifts. Multi tool carriers are not equipped with masts, but with booms.

It is important to note that, even though operators of this equipment will not be required to hold a national licence, employers still have a duty of care to provide a safe work environment for operators. This includes providing appropriate training, instruction, information and safe systems of work to operators of all types of machinery.

Further information on the new licensing requirements can be obtained by telephoning WorkSafe on 9327 8777, or by e-mailing enquiries to wslicensing@docep.wa.gov.au.

The National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work can be accessed and downloaded from the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) website at www.ascc.gov.au.

Source: DOCEP

Unions want same workplace policing powers as government

SYDNEY, January 16 2007

Unions want the same policing powers that the NSW government has over employers when investigating work-related incidents.

Unions NSW, the leading union body, has submitted a proposal to the WorkCover inquiry into workplace safety, soliciting an extension of powers to investigate and prosecute employers, News Ltd newspapers report.

They are demanding the power to question any individual on site who would then be compelled to cooperate under law.

More than 120 workers are killed in NSW every year in work-related accidents.

To some extent, unions already have the power to conduct video and audio surveillance, conduct searches and copy employer documents. But the submission states: “The current powers restrict the ability of unions to mount a prosecution as there is not a legal way for unions to obtain substances, question individuals etc.”

The government will not decide what changes will be made to the WorkCover Act 2000, if any, until after the March 24 state elections. However, employer groups have labelled the recommendation as “madness”, claiming the only body suited to hold such powers is the government.

AAP

Continued on page 3

Member News

Congratulations to SIA member Ern Millard CPMSIA for winning an award from Standards Australia. Below is what Standards Australia said about his award.

Meritorious contribution – Materials and Safety Sector – Mr Ern Millard

Ern Millard is passionate about standardisation and workplace safety. He has been a member of Safety Standard committees for over twenty-two years. These committees have included SF- 002 Industrial Accident Records, SF-008 Guarding of Power Presses and SF-032 Guarding of Industrial Robots. In addition, Ern chaired Committee SF-041, General Principles for the Guarding of Machinery since its first meeting in 1989.

From the chair, Ern has guided Committee SF-041 to develop a new approach to standards in the field of safety of machinery, including the fully revised publication earlier this year, of AS 4024 Safety of machinery.

Ern has championed the concept of coordinating all the safety of machinery standards in one suite.



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 2

Worker crushed to death by excavator

MELBOURNE, January 2 2006

A construction worker was crushed to death when the excavator he was driving toppled from a trailer in Melbourne's south-east today.

The 30-year-old man, from suburban Langwarrin, was unloading the excavator from the truck at a house in Caithwill Court, Narre Warren North, when the accident happened about 8am (AEDT), WorkCover spokesman Michael Birt said. The victim, who was dead when ambulance crews arrived, had been performing a routine task.

"All of the 29 (workplace deaths in Victoria) last year involved routine jobs, things they did pretty well every day," he said.

Three Victorians died in workplace accidents in January last year, and Mr Birt urged all those returning to work this week to take extra care. AAP

SafeWork SA urges workplace safety as new year's resolution

ADELAIDE, December 31 2006

Workers and contractors should make a New Year's resolution to make safety a priority in all workplaces, the state's occupational health and safety agency says.

After investigating 14 workplace deaths in 2006, SafeWork SA says in 2007 everyone from the shop floor to the head office needs to make a renewed effort to improve safety.

"It pays dividends in profitability, productivity and morale, as workplace deaths and injuries can often have long-term harmful effects on the remainder of a workforce," SafeWork SA executive director Michele Patterson said in a statement.

"From our factories, wharves and shops to our mines, farms and hospitals, we ask everyone to make safety a part of their core business and that 2007 will be a turning point in our quest for safer, fairer and more productive workplaces."

Of the 14 deaths investigated in 2006, four occurred in the transport sector, three in manufacturing, two each in construction, mining and agriculture sectors, and one in the community sector.

SafeWork SA is responsible for administering industrial relations legislation and managing all occupational health, safety and welfare functions in SA. AAP

Indian electrician crushed by tanker lift

PERTH, January 28 2007

An Indian national has been crushed to death by a lift on an oil tanker, south of Perth.

The 36-year-old electrician was working on an elevator on the British Mallard tanker when the accident occurred about 6.30pm (WDT) yesterday, police Inspector Trevor Davis said.

"He was doing some unscheduled maintenance work on the lift when the lift moved, crushing him against a wall," Insp Davis said.

The man is believed to have been a crew member aboard the Isle of Man-registered tanker, which was berthed at BP's Kwinana refinery south of Perth. Insp Davis said officers were investigating the accident for the West Australian coroner. AAP

Two young men electrocuted in powerline accident

HOBART, January 26 2007

Police have released the names of two men electrocuted when an irrigation pipe they were loading into a ute hit a powerline in Tasmania.

Ian John Charles Brodie, of Rowella, and Timothy John Peters, of Cressy, died about 1.20pm (AEDT) yesterday in the state's north-east.

The men, both aged 21, were electrocuted when a pipe they were carrying struck a powerline, instantly charging them with a high voltage.

Police said the incident occurred at the Croftside property in Powranna.

"One of the pipes contacted an overhead high-voltage powerline above the utility," Tasmania Police

NOTICE TO ALL UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

A notice was mailed out to all SIA unfinancial members prior to Christmas advising them of their Unfinancial Status.

The outcome of the notice was very positive with an overwhelming response from members in all the Divisions. I wish to thank all members for their support in renewing their SIA membership subscription.

The notice provided members with a 28 day deadline to renew their SIA membership. This deadline has now expired. Unfinancial members are encouraged to pay their SIA subscription by the end of the week.

Members who have not renewed their SIA membership by Friday 2nd February 2007 need to be aware that all SIA services will be withdrawn and will only be re instated upon payment of their SIA subscription.

Please contact the SIA National Secretariat on 03 - 8336 1995 or email natadmin@sia.org.au to discuss any queries regarding your SIA membership status.

Thank you

Joanne Mitrakas
Administration Manager

Continued on page 4



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 3

Acting Inspector Peter McKenzie said last night. "When the pipe contacted the powerline, both men were electrocuted."

Workplace Standards and police are investigating the circumstances behind the incident.

AAP

Forest worker fatally struck by falling tree limb

HOBART, January 22 2007

A forestry worker has died after being struck by a tree limb in a logging coupe in southern Tasmania.

The logging contractor was working near Geeveston when he was struck on the head at 8.15am (AEDT) today.

Police said colleagues tried to resuscitate the man, but paramedics pronounced him dead a short time later.

A coronial investigation is underway and Workplace Standards and Tasmania Police are investigating.

The age and identity of the man, who was a local resident, are yet to be released.

AAP

WorkSafe Victoria warns employers about workplace deaths

MELBOURNE, January 20 2007

WorkSafe Victoria has warned employers they face penalties of up to \$900,000 if found to have contributed to a workplace death.

The warning follows the death last night of a 56-year-old man who was crushed under 10 tonnes of steel that dropped on him from a crane being used to unload a ship at Appleton Dock in West Melbourne.

Police say the Noble Park man died when the steel load swung out of control, crushing him shortly before 8.30pm (AEDT).

The coroner attended the scene last night. WorkSafe Victoria and the Australian Maritime Authority are investigating the incident.

The death was the fourth in three weeks on Victorian worksites and the second in two days.

"This is a tragic start to the year," WorkSafe Victoria executive director John Merritt said. "All incidents will be fully investigated and where law is breached charges will be laid."

The maximum penalty for employers found to have breached work safety standards is \$900,000.

In another incident this week, a tandem trailer fell from a hoist on Wednesday at Inverlock in south-east Victoria. On January 2 the state recorded its first workplace death for the year when a Melbourne construction worker was crushed under an excavator at Narre Warren.

And on January 3 a man was electrocuted while working under a house in Camberwell.

A total of 29 people died at work in 2006, a 60 per cent increase on the 18 reported in 2005. "There has been some significant improvement to workplaces but this tragic start to the year is evidence there are certain workplaces out there which are still not big on safety," Mr Merritt said.

AAP

Heavy Fine After Half Tonne Load Injures Teenage Employee

19 January 2007

SafeWork SA is warning of the need to adhere to safe loading practices in the transport and storage industry, after a national transport company was convicted and fined over a serious injury to a young worker.

Amezdroz and Son Pty Ltd (trading as Wettenhalls Transport) was fined \$34,000 plus costs in the SA Industrial Relations Court today, after pleading guilty to breaching section 19 of the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986, in failing to ensure the safety of an employee whilst at work.

The court heard that on 20 August 2004 at the company's premises at Gillman, the 19 year old second-year apprentice storeman was unloading freight from a truck, when a 580 kilogram pallet fell from on top of the pallet upon which it had been precariously stacked. The young man suffered serious leg injuries including broken bones, as well as torn ligaments, bruising and lacerations to other parts of his body. The court heard that two years on from the incident, the young man will still need surgery and remains psychologically disturbed.

In his sentencing today, Industrial Magistrate Richard Hardy said:

"The risk to which employees... were exposed is in my view a life-threatening one... I am told that the defendant was for many years a small family business but that it then sustained rapid and massive expansion in which the systems did not keep pace with growth."

However in reducing the penalty, Magistrate Hardy did note the firm's contrition, cooperation, and moves to improve shortcomings in its safety procedures. Across Australia, Transport and Storage has the highest injury rate for all industries, at nearly double the current average of 16 claims per 1000 employees. (Aust. Safety and Compensation Council figures 2003-2004)

Source: SafeWork SA



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Note to ALL SIA Members from the National Secretary

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

29 January 2007.

For those who were professional members of the Institute at a grade of Chartered Professional Member, Fellow or Chartered Fellow on 1 July 2002, the annual subscription round in July 2007 requires you to forward a completed Continuing Professional Development (CPD) statement with your subscription, identifying that you have maintained your professional standing through safety related activity, education and training and other safety related work.

The following is an extract from the CPD Logbook, obtainable from the SIA website:

“Keeping a regular written record of your work and continuing education experience, however brief, is important for at least three good reasons:

- to assist you in completing the Active Practice category of your ‘Continuing Professional Development Record’
- to make it easier to keep your resume up to date by reminding you of your role in particular projects or tasks
- as a basis for completing a performance appraisal.

We require our clients, whether internal or external, to keep good records of OHS training of employees to satisfy their OHS legal obligations. Can we expect any less of ourselves?

Competence may be defined as ‘the possession of sufficient knowledge, experience and skills to enable the person to recognise what needs to be done and to be able to carry out what needs to be done in the way in which a person competent in the activity would expect it to be done’. A competent person also has an appreciation of their own limitations.

The importance of professional ‘competence’ was highlighted by Lord Bowen in defining the ‘reasonable man’ as the man on the ‘Clapham omnibus’:

Nobody expects the man on the Clapham omnibus to have any skills as a surgeon, a lawyer, a docker or a chimney sweep unless he is one; but if he professes to be one, then the law requires him to show such skill as an ordinary member of the profession or calling to which he belongs, or claims to belong, would display (Winfield, p46-7).

Employers expect that professional staff stay abreast of current trends, changes and technology. Certainly, when the health and safety professional acts as an internal or external consultant, this is imperative to employers or clients.

Continuing professional development (CPD) is vital in maintaining professional competence. CPD is a continuing process of personal growth to enhance one’s capabilities and to realise one’s full potential as a professional by obtaining and developing a wide range of knowledge, experience and skills which are not normally acquired during initial training and which together develop one’s competence.

The Safety Institute of Australia has CPD as a requirement for maintenance of the professional grades of membership - CPMSIA, FSIA and CFSA. The professional members must attain a given number of points over a 5 year period. These points may be attained in the categories of **Active Safety Practice, Professional Service Activities, Research and Publication of Papers, Attendance at Seminars and Educational Programs and Other Activities.**”

Last year, the requirement to provide a record was withdrawn when a number of members indicated that they did not have enough notice and/or they did not have opportunity to get to activities that contributed to CPD points. The National Board thus amended the rules to widen the context of continuing professional development. Points may be obtained by (again quoting from the Log Book):

1. Active Safety Practice

Active Safety Practice must be employment related, and may include the development of health and safety policies, audits, training, and installation of a OHS management system, accident investigations.

A full time employed practitioner or professional obtains 4 points per year (total of 20 over 5 years), 2 points per year for part time (0.5) employment.

2. Conferences, Seminars & Educational programs

CPD points are awarded for at the following rate:

1 point per day for conferences, seminars and educational programs of at least 1 full day duration

0.50 points for ½ day conferences

Continued on page 6



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 5

0.25 points for seminars and sessions of 2 hours duration.

Approved conferences including those conducted by COSHAP Associations **attract double points**. COSHAP is the Congress of Safety and Health Associations Presidents which includes the Safety Institute of Australia, Ergonomics Association of Australia, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, Australian College of Occupational Health Nurses, Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

Attendance as a delegate at other safety conferences, such as those run by NSCA, IIR, AIG and the OH&S Regulators attract points at single rates

Educational programs include all TAFE and Tertiary OH&S programs and other programs which may impact on the OH&S discipline such as human factors, psychology, chemical engineering, construction safety etc. Specialist training in safety related disciplines such as aviation safety, road safety, safety in hospitals etc also attract points as per the above rates.

3. Professional and Community Service Activities

Members of technical or professional committees or subcommittees of a COSHAP association or industry association or those that provide service within a COSHAP association, such as Chair, Treasurer, Secretary of Division or Chapter or a member of a Committee of Management may claim CPD points for professional service.

CPD points are also awarded for activities such as:

- participation in an SIA mentor program
- provision of pro bono OHS services to community or charitable organisations
- presentations or lectures on a pro bono basis on OHS matters to industrial, educational, community, charitable or service organisations
- participation in industry safety forums, boards, regional safety groups and safety related committees
- other OHS community services as considered appropriate.

1 point gained for each 8 hours of service (diary of activities required).

4. Research, Publication and Presentation of Papers

Papers must be a minimum of 500 words and may include original articles in a peer-reviewed publication or non-peer-reviewed papers, such as those for in-house magazines or newsletters. Articles for in-house magazines and newsletters must be original and not a summary and papers may be randomly assessed. This includes presentation at conferences.

Non peer reviewed Papers	>500 & <3000 words	2 points
	>3000 words	4 points
Peer reviewed Papers	>500 & <3000 words	4 points
	>3000 words	8 points
Acceptance of a practical solution to the ASCC database of solutions		4 points

5. Development and implementation of original OHS material

You may claim CPD points for any original safety programs or packages you have developed and implemented, such as safety management systems, safety training programs or specific subject matter programs such as risk management programs, contractor management programs, manual handling programs and chemical management programs, major incident investigation reports etc.

Non-refereed programs	1 point per program
Refereed Programs	2 points per program

To claim the points for Refereed Programs, claimants should obtain a reference from two people who can certify that the work was the original work of the claimant and who can attest to the standard and benefit of the work. One of those referees should be a member of the SIA or other COSHAP association. Claimants should be prepared to table this evidence when and if the claimant's CPD log is selected for audit by the SIA Board of Management.

NOTE: For the purpose of this section, original material is defined as material which has been researched, developed and written by the claimant and for which the claimant legally has rights to the intellectual property.

Continued on page 7



SAFETY AT WORK BULLETIN

Continued from page 6

Note that there are limits on the number of points that can be utilised from any one category as follows:

	CPMSIA	FSIA/CFSIA
Total points required over 5 years	50	65
<i>This may be made up of maximum points from the following categories</i>		
1. Active Safety Practice	20	20
2. Conferences, Seminars, Education	30	30
3. Professional and Community Service Activities	10	10
4. Papers and conference presentations	10	10
5. Development and implementation of original OHS material	10	10

From this year on, a sample of 5-10% of re-subscriptions from professional members will be sampled and audited as part of a 5 year cycle. The Secretariat has been asked that when professional members re-subscribe, they will be checked to see if they were at a professional grade at 1 July 2002. If those members have not submitted a CPD return, they will be reminded to provide one. If one is not provided, or if the CPD points are not at the required level, the grade of the professional member will be reduced to the level consistent with the CPD points provided.

If a member wishes to appeal any such action, a written application may be forwarded to the National Board of Management (or Grading Committee) requesting an extension of up to 6 months based on personal or professional extenuating circumstances.

Please note that those only at Member grade do NOT have to submit a CPF return.

A Frequently Asked Questions column, based on questions that members have raised in the past is available on the website. Members having questions can contact the Secretariat.

MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES

As was discussed when the new website was launched last year, members are reminded that the @sia.org.au email address is only an alias and is constructed to redirect any mail to another address / account owned by the member and is operated by a formal email provider. Internet providers can provide email accounts as part of their package, or else free email accounts can be obtained from such providers as Hotmail, Yahoo and Google.

Leo Ruschena, National Secretary

Adobe Acrobat V7.08 Information

Some readers have expressed difficulty in upgrading to the latest version of Acrobat Reader with one of the problems being that the download can be over 20 megabytes - a substantial burden to dial-up internet connections.

Safety At Work publishers are now allowed to distribute the latest edition of Acrobat Reader on a CD. If you want a copy of Acrobat Reader 7.08 please email me at jonesk@sia.org.au and include your full postal address. A CD will be mailed to you shortly after.

The CD won't be pretty as it is a burnt copy of the software that Adobe permits us to distribute. It is not allowed to be given to anyone other than the person requesting the CD and all CDs will be checked for viruses before distribution. For those readers who are unconcerned about download limits, the latest version of Acrobat Reader is available for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

SIA Safety At Work Bulletin
Issue 83, January 29, 2007
ISSN 1832-6714

Editor Kevin Jones
Editorial Inquiries +61 (0)3 9478 9484
jonesk@sia.org.au

Designer/Publisher:
Workplace Safety Services Pty Ltd
849 High Street, Regent VIC 3073 Australia
A.B.N. 68 091 088 621
www.safetyatwork.biz

This weekly news bulletin is produced on behalf of the Safety Institute of Australia (Victoria Division) by Workplace Safety Services P/L.

Disclaimer

Entire contents, Copyright © 2004 – 2006 Workplace Safety Services P/L and its partners unless otherwise stated. All rights reserved. Reproduction, and redistribution, of this publication in any form without prior written permission is forbidden. The information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable.

Workplace Safety Services P/L and the Safety Institute of Australia shall have no liability for errors, omissions or inadequacies in the information contained herein or for interpretations thereof. The reader assumes sole responsibility for the selection of these materials to achieve its intended results. The opinions expressed herein are of the authors.

Any views and opinions in this Bulletin are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or the Safety Institute of Australia.

No part of this magazine may be published or copied without permission from the publisher.

This file cannot be forwarded without the formal and written permission of the Safety Institute of Australia and Workplace Safety Services P/L.

