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No 3: January 2013

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Hi there – and welcome to the third Choose Safety newsletter!

As Bob Dylan said.... “The times, they are a-changin.”

The 1st January 2013 heralded the introduction of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act and Regulations here in SA. How will this affect your business? For many of you, probably not a whole lot. Despite what has been said by some areas of the media and also by some union and industry groups, if you were up to date with the compliance requirements in the “old” SA legislation, then you should be mostly compliant with the new legislation. We have provided some snippets of the requirements in this newsletter. The basic tenet of workplace safety is still the same – to provide a safe place of work and protect any person from exposure to the risks arising from your work activities.

We wish you all the best for a safe and successful 2013 and look forward to continuing to work with you to improve workplace health and safety.

Craig Schopp – Director and Principal Consultant

Remember:

*“The standard you walk
past is the standard you
set!”*

Harmonised WHS Legislation – Now What??

South Australia's new harmonized WHS legislation took effect on 1 January 2013. This brings South Australia in line with all States and Territories that have already adopted the new laws (with the exceptions now being WA and Vic).

- The legislation is another step forward for the nation in harmonizing work health and safety laws across Australia. The Workplace Health and Safety is designed to reduce red tape and compliance costs for businesses that operate across state borders and will recognize licensing and training nationally.
- The WHS legislation for South Australia is available on the Safework SA website and the COP's are on the Safework Australia website. [Click HERE](#) to access the South Australian WHS Legislation and SA Fact Sheets.
- There is also the requirement to operate within the guidelines stated in the “Codes of Practice” (COP's), where applicable, unless you can show you are doing something more or better than the Code requires. These are national codes and there are already many COP's in place across the nation. [Click Here](#) to access the national codes and draft codes.
- An SA Advisory Council will keep the administration and enforcement of this Act, and any other legislation relevant to occupational health, safety and welfare, under review for the first year.
- **If your Company needs help in reviewing and/or updating its Safety Management System, Advice in relation to the new requirements or Training to help your Company understand the requirements of the new WHS legislation, then please contact us for answers and information.**

**Contact Choose Safety
today, mention the
newsletter and get a
10% Discount
on the next job we
perform for you!!**

******* NEWS FLASH – Check out our updated website too *******

With a New Year and the new WHS legislation coming into effect, it was time to make a few improvements to the website too – go to www.choosesafety.com.au

New Changes in the SA WHS Act

The main object of the Workplace Health and Safety Act is to provide for a balanced and nationally consistent framework to secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces by maintaining and strengthening the national harmonisation of laws relating to work health and safety and to **facilitate a consistent national approach to work**.



Contact Choose Safety today to arrange a review of your safety systems and keep up to date with the new changes

While a consistent national approach to work is welcomed, it stands that while we are sharing good legal compliance practices, we, in SA have a few key changes to our legislation. Those being:

- **Responsible Officers** - This has been replaced by responsibilities for the PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking), as well as requirements for senior personnel who are deemed "Officers" of the PCBU.
- **Transitional Periods** - It is important to note that any significantly new requirements in the new WHS regulations will have transitional periods, mostly a 12 month period, to provide businesses and workplaces and workers time to prepare and implement the requirements. [Click Here](#) for information relating to items under transition and transition periods.
- **Height Limits** - In the National Code of Practice for "Preventing Falls in Housing Construction" High risk construction work includes work that involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 metres. Under SA legislation the height will be set at 3 metres.
- **Right to Silence** - A person is excused from answering a question or providing information or a document under this Part on the ground that the answer to the question, or the information or document, may tend to incriminate the person or expose the person to a penalty.
- **Union Right of Entry** - An official of the union must apply to Safework SA for an entry permit to enter a place of works for work health and safety purposes.

New Clients – and what we are doing to help them

We service a wide range of companies and industries in South Australia and nationally. We strive to provide excellent Customer Service, which keeps our existing clients happy, safe and informed of relevant requirements. Most of our work is provided on an "as required" basis and repeat business shows that our existing clients have been satisfied.

This list below shows some of our new satisfied Customers.

Hughes Constructions – Safety Management System documentation

Wakefield Trucks – OHS Audit, Plant Risk Assessments, Traffic Management Review

Buttrose Earthmovers – Development of Integrated Management System

Maritime Constructions – Integrated Management System review and upgrade

Minda Incorporated – Customised Risk Assessment training

Brazzale Constructions – Small business OHS documentation kit

Chassis Brakes – OHS Legal Compliance baseline audit

Australian Whole Foods – Plant Risk Assessments

We will be happy to also add **you** to our list of satisfied Customers – contact us today to discuss your specific business requirements.

Contact Choose Safety

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*The Choice is easy....
Choose Safety!!*
