

Be Safe or Pay the Price

This year (2012) new legislation (Work Health & Safety Act 2011) has been introduced with respect to Workplace Health and Safety (WHS). This legislation covers all jurisdictions, i.e., it is national. Under the new legislation the penalties are very severe. For example, for what is called a Category 1 offence, i.e., death or serious injury of an employee, the person conducting the business (employer) is liable to a fine of **\$600,000 or 5 years imprisonment. It is a criminal offence.**

If you are an employer do you want to run this risk? Remember ignorance of the law is no excuse. You must provide a safe workplace environment which complies with the requirements of the new legislation – and these requirements are many and stringent. YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS MUST BE DOCUMENTED – IF IT IS NOT WRITTEN, YOU WOULD BE IN BREACH OF THE ACT AND OPEN TO PENALTIES.

Do not be misled by thinking this only applies to hazardous jobs or situations. Australian office workers do more damage to their bones and

muscles than acrobats and circus performers who push their bodies to physical limits.

Risks can often be overlooked. We all know that electricity is a hazard. One doesn't have to be up a pole to be electrocuted. A kitchen worker can be electrocuted using a deep fryer.

Every business needs Risk Management. Smarter Business Services can help you with this. Give us a call now and avoid bankruptcy or gaol.



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