

# W I S E

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Pulp and Paper Industry OHS Conference 2011

## Safety, Sustainability & the Future

16th & 17th November, 2011

Save the date!

Please note  
**CHANGE OF  
DATE**

"A very professionally run conference. If every person only took one thing away from the conference it would be a success. I am taking at least three things away."

"It is reassuring to find that there is a considerable amount of resources and investigation being applied to OHS by some very impressive people / organisations."

The fourth biennial Pulp & Paper Industry OHS Conference will be held in Melbourne on **Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th November 2011.**

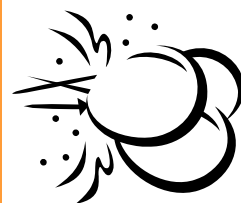
This is the only OHS conference organised *by our industry, for our industry.* Hear what the hot issues are and how you can address them within your own workplace.

Places are limited—don't miss out.

To register your interest, please send your details to [info@ppwsafety.org](mailto:info@ppwsafety.org) with "CONFERENCE 2011" in the subject line.

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**It's our Anniversary - celebrating 20 years  
working towards a safe & healthy industry!**



# Harmonised Work Health and Safety Laws Update

## Queensland

Queensland passed the *Work Health and Safety Bill 2011* (WHS Bill) on 26 May 2011.

Safe Work Australia (SWA) considers that there are no major policy departures from the model WHS Bill.

## New South Wales

The NSW Legislative Council passed the *Work Health and Safety Bill 2011* on 27 May 2011 with amendments. The Bill was forwarded to the Legislative Assembly and passed unopposed on 1 June 2011.

The policy departures from the model WHS Bill involve introducing a union right to prosecute for:

- Category 1 and 2 offences where WorkCover NSW declines to prosecute after the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) has decided the case has merit; and
- all Category 3 offences.

## South Australia

The Model Bill was re-introduced into the Lower House of the South Australian Parliament on 19 May 2011.

## Australian Capital Territory

The ACT is preparing the Bill for introduction to the Legislative Assembly on 21 June and it is scheduled for debate on 10 August 2011.

Unions ACT have received commitment from the ACT Government that the Bill will include a right for unions to initiate prosecutions for breaches of the Act.

## Western Australia

Western Australia has received approval to draft the Bill and have issued drafting instructions. The Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament between August and September.

## Victoria

Victoria received approval to draft the Bill and is likely to introduce the Bill into Parliament in August 2011.

## Northern Territory

The NT has received approval to draft the Bill and preliminary drafting instructions have been issued.

## Tasmania

Tasmania has received approval to draft the Bill and has issued drafting instructions.

## Regulations & Codes of Practice

The process of developing Model Regulations by the Special Interest Group (SIG) - OH&S is almost complete.

The Safety Work Australia, Significant Issues Group—OHS (SIG-OHS) is reviewing the content of the draft model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations and model Codes of Practice documents following the public comment period from 7 December 2010 to 4 April 2011.

It is expected that a final package of Regulations and priority Codes of Practice will be considered during the SIG-OHS meeting in July.

The priority Codes of Practice are:

- How to manage work health and safety risks
- How to consult on work health and safety
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Confined spaces
- How to prevent falls at the workplace
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Preparation of safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals
- How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace
- How to safely remove asbestos
- Facilities for construction sites

Additional model Codes of Practice are being developed and preliminary comment has been made. These Codes will be released for public comment later in 2011. Codes that are proposed to form part of the second stage cover the following areas:

- |                                           |                      |             |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| * Construction                            | * Plant              | * Chemicals |
| * Electricity                             | * Mining             | * First Aid |
| * Fatigue                                 | * Traffic Management | * Bullying  |
| * Occupational diving                     | * Vibration          | * Welding   |
| * Abrasive blasting                       | * Forestry safety    |             |
| * Safe design of buildings and structures |                      |             |
| * Blood-borne pathogens                   |                      |             |

## Training

The process of harmonisation laws will involve the development of national curriculum for the training of both Health and Safety Representatives and Entry Permit Holders (EPH).

**Source: ACTU Executive Report 6, July 2011, Occupational Health & Safety and Workers' Compensation**

## Safe Work Australia Fact Sheets

Safe Work Australia has published legislative fact sheets on 12 key areas of the harmonised work health and safety laws, which are expected to take effect in just over six months' time. Specifically tailored for a legal audience, but containing concise, accessible information, the fact sheets are:

- |                                                    |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Role of inspectors in compliance and enforcement | * Health and safety committees                                   |
| * Right of entry                                   | * Codes of Practice                                              |
| * Incident notification                            | * Protection from discrimination, coercion and misrepresentation |
| * Consultation obligations                         | * Issue resolution                                               |
| * Work health and safety duties                    | * Role of the regulator in compliance and enforcement            |
| * Review of decisions                              | * Health and safety representatives                              |

Fact sheets can be downloaded from Safe Work Australia's website—[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

**Source: Safety Net Journal, Victorian Trades Hall Council**

## Paper Mill's Focus on Safety Pays Dividends

Australian Paper's Maryvale Mill, Australia's largest integrated fine paper-making and packaging papers complex, has won this year's Manufacturing Industry Safety Scheme of the Year Award for its Refresher Training Toolbox 24/7 safety scheme.

Peter Freeman, Australian Paper's Major Hazard Facility Compliance Officer, accepted the Endeavour Award at the official ceremony on 25 May in Melbourne, saying he and his team were very proud of the decision made by the expert judging panel to recognise the measures the company went to, to make a safer workplace.



"In fact all the finalists here in the safety category are winners; we all stop people getting hurt," Freeman said on the night.

"The problem facing Maryvale was how can we train and/or inform and reinforce basic knowledge from previous and new safety training sessions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to a workforce of approximately 1000 personnel made up of 24 hour shift workers, day workers, administration staff."

"For example, an employee has sustained a twinge in their back while carrying out a task and has reported the twinge to the First Aid centre. We report all injuries, no matter how slight."

"The injury is recorded and the employee is deemed fit to return to work."

"However, before the employee returns to work, an employee has the ability to complete one of our new online Toolbox training and information sessions which show the employee the basics in musculoskeletal of basic handling techniques to reinforce previous training sessions."

He explained the Toolbox session is recorded with the employee's name, time and date of completion of the toolbox and automatically placed as a record of training in the employee's training database. It also has the ability to print-out the material contained within the program, with provision to make notes.

"A proactive application of this Toolbox training and information session is another OH&S tool for managers and supervisor carrying out their safety day training or safety Toolbox sessions on area related OH&S concerns," said Freeman.

"Let's say the topic is eye safety. They can play one of the three toolboxes on a projector with the ability of pre-printed handouts for group discussion and this information session can also be recorded within each employees' training database."

Another advantage of the system is that sometimes—for whatever reason—an employee may not be able to attend a safety training day. That employee can still complete the information from the toolbox on-line at a convenient time, with the results again recorded.

Freeman explained that there are 71 Toolbox sessions available live, 24/7, and that the Toolbox has had over 1,200 completions after just 12 months online.

"We have just added a number of video-based toolboxes, thanks to the kind people at WorkSafe BC who have given us permission to use some of their videos," Freeman said.

"These are based on the same concept and record keeping and are committed in 2 to 3 minute video clips that can be viewed as a whole program over a full round of shifts, when employees have the time available. They are also online and available 24/7."

Most Toolboxes have a printable PDF file of their content and where applicable questions and interactive answers are used.

According to Freeman, the cost-effectiveness of the programs has delivered a return on investment that is very high. "Not only have we been able to recycle training material which in its original form can cost up to two to three thousand dollars in the time spent to putting a training package together, but we created the ability for each employee to do these Toolbox sessions online, without any overtime or cover required," Freeman said.

The judges were impressed with the simplicity of the system, and its uptake, saying "the Refresher Training Toolbox 24/7 takes safety to a new level".

## Safety Alerts

### Baler Fatality at Gaskells Waste Services

On 23 December 2010, a 39-year old married father-of-two from Poland suffered fatal injuries whilst operating a horizontal baler at a waste services plant. A post-mortem revealed the causes of death to be haemorrhaging, shock and severe traumatic injury to both legs.

The deceased was employed by Gaskells Waste Services, Bootle. Police and the Health & Safety Executive are

carrying out a joint investigation into the fatality. Until the investigation is completed, further details are not available. Unconfirmed media reports suggest that the deceased may have been trying to clear a blockage in the baling chamber. Whilst attempting to clear the blockage, the compactor ram cycled and crushed both his legs.

The information surrounding the fatality is very limited; therefore we are currently unable to establish how access was obtained to the baler.

### Christmas rush exposes safety flaws, ends in \$193K fine

A Sydney packaging operation whose system for storing pallets became less and less safe over time, and was pushed to breaking point by the Christmas rush, has been fined \$193,200 after three workers were injured.

Zac's Packs Pty Ltd, JIT Offset Pty Ltd and their operations manager, James Alexander Foran, pleaded guilty to breaches of the state OHS Act, and were fined in the NSW Industrial Court.

The two companies were part of a family business (incorporated in the 1990s) that employed 90 workers and operated out of the same warehouse. The operations manager, who was the founder's grandson, was responsible for the OHS systems of both.

The day of the incident in December 2007 was the last working day before the Christmas break, and box-making machinery was running full-speed prior to a two-week maintenance shutdown. Extra product was made to ensure supply and it all had to be moved and stored. As the storage room was full, the forklift drivers began to store pallets around the factory.

The drivers adopted a system of carrying two pallets at a time and stacking them four pallets high, to a height of nearly six metres. As a forklift driver was placing the final two pallets on a stack, the top pallet began to collapse and sheets of cardboard slid to the floor.

Two nearby employees came to help him clean up the mess, but as they were doing so a tonne of cardboard and pallets fell on them.

One of the workers suffered a fractured spine which required bone graft surgery; the others sustained soft tissue injuries and cuts. All have since returned to work.

#### Unsafe system "evolved over a long period of time"

The Industrial Court Justice said the system that allowed pallets to be moved and stacked unsafely had "evolved over a long period of time", and posed a risk to forklift operators and others.

The double stacked pallets exceeded the height of the forklift's load guard and were not tied on. She said management and supervisors were aware of the system and accepted it.

After the accident, WorkCover issued an improvement notice requiring the operation to develop safe systems for storage and handling. Justice Kavanagh heard the companies subsequently developed safe work instructions for forklift operation, storage of work in progress, clean up and walkways.

They now have designated storage areas with pedestrian exclusion zones, and stacks are contained by netting where this is not feasible. Pallets are now stored only three high. All employees have been retrained.

Source: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)

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