

Safety Chat



HAZCON

ISSUE 1 - February 2012

Introducing Safety Services



To assist clients in meeting their safety needs, HAZCON is pleased to announce the addition of the Safety Services Division to the company's existing services.

The Safety Services Division is managed by David Wright MOHS, CPMSIA, RSP (Aust) who has a broad range of experience working in heavy industry, the steel manufacturing and timber industry and is supported by a dedicated team of HSE senior advisors.

The Safety Services Division is a highly focused team aimed at providing cost effective ways for organisations both large and small to ensure that they have compliance with their legal and moral responsibility, to provide safe systems of work for their employees as well as providing appropriately trained and qualified resources.

The Safety Services Division can assist an organisation in two ways:

a) Short term placement

At times organisations may find themselves without sufficient safety resources to maintain their HSE systems due to major projects, serious accidents, resignation, illness or staff on extended leave. HAZCON can place a safety professional into a temporary role to fill the need until normal staffing levels are restored.

b) Ongoing part time placement

Many Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) have a need to establish or maintain a OHSMS, but may not be able to justify a full time role. HAZCON can place a HSE professional into an ongoing part time placement in negotiation with the SME. A HSE professional can help develop and embed the OHSMS and policies and procedures.

Our staff are experienced in all areas of HSE and can help you to develop procedures which will enable you to comply with your legislative requirements as well as complying with the requirements of AS/NZS 9001, AS/NZS 14001 and NAT AS4801.

To find out more about the Safety Services Division, please call David Wright on 1800 429 266 or email him at: david.wright@hazcon.com.au

Visit us at www.hazcon.com.au

IN THIS FEATURE

New to HAZCON

... Safety Services Division

Noise in Maritime Environments

... How to reduce Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)

Due Diligence of Officers

... Do you know if you're at risk?

Extension to HAZCON's Scope of Registration

... New Nationally Accredited Courses

National Harmonisation in Victoria

... Government continues to play "wait and see"

Dangerous Goods

... Are you managing them safely?

Visit us at Safety in Action

SEE US AT

**SAFETY
IN ACTION 2012**

17-19 APRIL 2012
MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE

HAZCON is pleased to announce that we'll be an Exhibitor at this year's Safety in Action show in Melbourne. You can visit us at our site (M04) where you will be able to chat to our experienced staff who are available to answer your HSE training and services questions. You can register as a visitor for the Melbourne Safety In Action 2012 show by visiting the Safety in Action website: www.thesafetyshow.com.au/safety-in-action-melbourne.

We look forward to seeing you at the SIA Show. Dates and times are below for your quick reference.

Venue: Melbourne Exhibition Centre
2 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Melbourne

Dates and Times: Tuesday 17th April (10am - 5pm)
Wednesday 18th April (9am - 5pm)
Thursday 19th April (9am - 4pm)

Safety Chat

Nationally Accredited Training



HAZCON has recently applied to have its scope of registration extended to incorporate nationally accredited Heights training and nationally accredited Confined Space training.

There are plans to further add to the scope of registration of the RTO with the inclusion of national units of competence for Emergency Management training and for Asbestos training. HAZCON currently offers this training based on the national units of competence.

By extending the scope of registration, organisations and individuals that choose to access the accredited training will have nationally recognised statements of attainment provided on successful completion. This has a number of benefits to organisations and to the individual.

Individuals will be able to have their training recognised and may be able to receive credits for units within other study they may undertake, their statements of attainment will be accepted throughout Australia and there will be an ongoing record of where and when the training occurred.

Organisations will benefit from the accredited training as when they employ individuals that hold statements of attainment for these units of competence, they will be confident that the potential employee has been assessed against the benchmark for the industry. When an organisation chooses to offer this training 'in house' to current employees they can be confident that their employees have been trained appropriately.

Our new nationally accredited courses of *Working Safely at Heights* and *Enter a Confined Space* are on HAZCON's public training schedule for 2012. The dates can be found in HAZCON's Training & Services brochure or on our website www.hazcon.com.au

For further information about accredited training, please contact Kaye Tyter on 1800 429 266 or email her at: kaye.tyter@hazcon.com.au

Harmonisation of OHS Laws Victorian Government continues to play "wait and see"



Currently the Commonwealth, Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have all passed the new Work Health and Safety laws to be enacted from 1st January 2012. In Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia there has been no legislative action at this point in time.

The Victorian Government has confirmed its support for the principle of harmonisation subject to a satisfactory assessment of the impact and benefits to Victoria. It has stated that it is essential a national scheme benefits Victorian businesses, protects Victorian jobs and ensures Victoria's position as the safest place to work is maintained.

The State Government has initiated a supplementary Victorian-specific assessment looking at the impact of the proposed laws in Victoria. It is believed that the process will take several months. The State Government will then evaluate the completed supplementary impact assessment and determine the best way forward.

In the interim, WorkSafe will continue to enforce Victoria's existing Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007 and Compliance Codes.

Clearly there are immediate implications for any Victorian businesses that are working interstate and new WHS legislation could possibly be implemented as soon as July 2012.

Asbestos Project in Petrochemical Industry

A team of hygienists from HAZCON have been working on a complex asbestos removal project from hot pipework at a Victorian petrochemical plant.

The project, spanning more than 122 days, involved a range of specific asbestos monitoring programs, safe working practice review and clearance monitoring.

The project is being completed professionally and with no incidents or concerns amongst the affected workforce.



Dangerous Goods - Are you managing them safely?



Almost all businesses have dangerous goods on their sites whether it is in the form of petrol or bleaches up to large tanks of methanol or caustic soda. The Victorian Dangerous Goods Regulations state that all dangerous goods must be assessed for the risk they present not only to people but property as well and where dangerous goods are used, personnel must be trained in the appropriate methods of storage, handling and disposal.

In general, businesses do not manage dangerous goods well. This view has come from auditing a large variety of companies across Victoria. No matter how large or small, there are some key issues that arise from managing dangerous goods.

- A lack of rigorous risk assessments is the root cause of many related issues on businesses sites. Too often risk assessments are conducted as a desk top exercise whereas they should be conducted with the personnel who will use them from entry to the business to the final disposal of the empty package.
- Incorrect signage or placards on sites is another issue. Incorrect placards or no placards can put emergency service personnel in danger if they understate the hazards or alternately deter emergency service personnel entering a building if the placard overstates the hazards within.
- Inadequate emergency response in the form of eye washes, showers, fire extinguishers, training, and whole of business emergency response plans.
- Poor storage practices such as placing gas cylinders near doorways or air vents, flammable liquids too close to ignition sources, inadequate separation of incompatible chemicals and over filling of spill pallets where the only place for dangerous goods to fall is onto the ground.

As we all know, businesses grow and change and many systems that were in place for ensuring compliance with legislation do not alter along with the change. The benefit of having a dangerous goods audit is that it will identify issues that were not anticipated or recognised by the employer and also recommend realistic actions to address these gaps.

If you would like more information on dangerous goods management, please call Ian Good on 1800 429 266 or email him at: ian.good@hazcon.com.au

New Faces

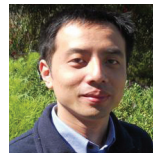
HAZCON are happy to introduce some new faces to the team for 2012:



David Wright is one of HAZCON's Principal Consultants and is in charge of our new Safety Services Division.



Peter Hudson has joined HAZCON as a Senior HSE Consultant and is also a WorkSafe Approved Trainer.



Mason Weng is HAZCON's new IT Coordinator and will make sure HAZCON is current and up to date with the latest technology.

David, Peter and Mason bring with them a wealth of experience in their field and are a welcome addition to the HAZCON team.

Extreme Noise in Maritime Environments



A major and preventable issue in Maritime/shipping environments is noise. There is an Australian Standard (AS 2254:1988 Acoustics Recommended Noise Levels for Various Areas of Occupancy in Vessels and Offshore Mobile Platforms) which details appropriate noise levels for various compartments on ships.

Many compartments, such as the main engine rooms, can have noise levels of over 98 dB(A) and personal daily noise doses (DND) can be many times higher than acceptable.

HAZCON has developed assessment tools which look at a combination of frequency analysis in high noise environments, personal exposure using the latest Quest dosimeters and reviewing the signage, noise policies, training and whether the Hearing Protective Devices (HPDs) are suitable for the noise levels present. The assessments are undertaken as the vessel is travelling at 80% of its maximum continuous rating (MCR) which minimises the disruption to the crew.

A fully integrated approach to noise may significantly reduce the Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) which is so prevalent in the maritime industry.

Safety Chat



HAZCON

ISSUE 1 - February 2012

Due Diligence of Officers - Do you know if you're at risk?



The new Harmonised Work Health and Safety laws have introduced positive duties for officers of employers or (PCBU's).

Although Victoria has not adopted the new harmonised laws and may not be implemented until the start of 2013, or possibly by July 2012, many companies who transact business in NSW, QLD, ACT and SA will have to comply in those states with the new WHS laws. The Commonwealth have also adopted the new laws.

Conducting a gap analysis of your current OHSMS is a key way of identifying whether the business is in compliance with the new legislation and importantly whether the officers of the business have executed their duties of due diligence.

A gap analysis for due diligence will consider whether:

- The senior management or board has assessed managements' effectiveness with regards to WHS obligation.
- Audits and corrective actions are being performed and reported to officers.
- The OHS management system is in place and complies with legislation.
- Risk management practices have been developed, implemented and reviewed for adequacy.
- Analysis of health and safety data is being conducted and what actions are emanating from the analysis.

Whether you are solely a Victorian based business or have national reach, having a gap analysis against the requirements of the new WHS laws will ensure that you have met one of the duties of due diligence for officers and reduce the likelihood of failing to comply with the new obligations.

If you would like more information or to organise a gap analysis for your organisation, please call Ian Good to discuss on 1800 429 266 or email him at: ian.good@hazcon.com.au

To stay up to date with the latest harmonisation news, please visit our website www.hazcon.com.au

HAZCON Supports Movember



As part of Movember 2011, Richard Forster, HAZCON's Principal Training and Development Consultant, grew a mo (or at least attempted to) for the first time and took time out during training sessions to highlight issues relating to men's health.

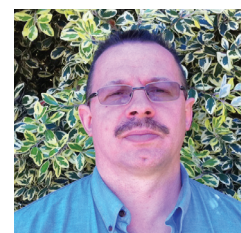
Movember (the month formerly known as November) began in Australia and has spread across the world. It is an annual, month-long event involving the growing of moustaches during November. The goal is to "change the face of men's health."

By encouraging men to go to the doctor, Movember aims to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis and effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths. Besides getting an annual check-up, the Movember Foundation encourages men to be aware of any family history of cancer, and to adopt a more healthy lifestyle.

Richard intends to join in Movember 2012 and will be encouraging work colleagues and friends to do likewise. Further information on Movember may be found at www.movember.com.au



Pre - Movember
Richard



Movember
Richard

CONTACT HAZCON

Postal: GPO Box 1479, Melbourne VIC 3001
Melbourne: 8 Industrial Avenue, Notting Hill VIC 3168
Gippsland: 107 Princes Highway, Trafalgar VIC 3824
Phone: 1800 HAZCON (1800 429 266)
Fax: 1800 429 267
Email: hazcon@hazcon.com.au
Website: www.hazcon.com.au