

Speedy review of inspectors' decisions

As a result of Maxwell's finding that current procedures for internal review of WorkSafe decisions are ad hoc and unrecorded, the Act provides for a speedy, authoritative and transparent mechanism for internal reviews.

The current right for a person to seek review at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) following an internal review will remain, and VCAT will now exclusively hear external reviews of WorkSafe decisions.

Specific penalties for specific offences

The Act introduces a range of maximum penalties tailored to each offence under the Act.

The maximum fine for breaches of the general safety duties, as previously reported, will increase to 9,000 penalty units (\$920,250) for corporations and 1,800 penalty units (\$184,050) for individuals.

The maximum penalty for a breach of the new duty to consult will be \$92,025 for a corporation and \$18,405 for individuals.

Five-year jail terms can be imposed in addition to a fine.

The Act also provides that the courts can order additional sentencing options such as adverse publicity orders, safety improvement projects, and health and safety undertakings. WorkSafe will also be able to accept undertakings as an alternative to prosecution.

OHS Training Mini Afternoon Sessions

The Master Grocers' Association will be holding OHS Training on the following dates:

Part One:

Legislation, Implementation, Assessment

February 9 / June 8

Part Two:

Policies and Procedures

March 10 / July 13

Part Three:

Forms, Checklists, Risk Management, Instructions

April 6 / August 3

Part Four:

Staff—Induction, Consultation, Record Keeping

May 4 / September 7

The cost to attend each session is \$55 (GST Inclusive). Sessions are held at our office Suite 9, 1 Milton Parade, Malvern, commencing at 1pm sharp.

For the booking form, please go to the webpage. www.mgav.com.au

OHS Feature



Don't Drink and Work is the Message



Workers consuming alcohol in the workplace or during work hours put themselves and fellow workers at risk of injuries, particularly if handling heavy machinery. This fact has prompted WorkSafe Victoria to release new guidance to assist employers in setting up a program on managing alcohol in the workplace.

The guidance, released on November 4 2004, provides assistance in the following areas:

1. Developing an alcohol policy and program
2. Establishing an employee assistance program to assist with alcohol problems or other workplace issues which may lead to alcohol consumption
3. Determining when testing for alcohol consumption is permissible, and any related issues

The guidance also includes resources that employers can refer employees to, for example government funded alcohol and drug counseling services and other drug and alcohol programs.

Alcohol in the workplace — guidelines for developing a workplace alcohol policy is now available for download from WorkSafe Victoria's website at www.workcover.vic.gov.au.

Jennifer Flanagan

SAFETY BEGINS ON THE FLOOR

The majority of shop injuries are caused by slips and falls on floors without proper matting.

Be prepared call Bardwell's TODAY!

Barry Bardwell

2/169 Grange Road, Fairfield Victoria 3078

Phone: **9499 5991** Fax: 9499 5961 Mobile: 0408 364 491

Email: bardwell@bardwellmatting.com.au

www.bardwellmatting.com.au

BARDWELL
SAFETY MATTING