

OHS Code of Practice

The National Occupational Health and Safety Council has begun reviewing the national standard and code of practice for manual handling and is proposing a specific requirement for employers to provide workers with information and training on managing the risks.

The draft revised *National Standard for Manual Handling* seeks to provide a nationally consistent framework for regulation of OHS in manual handling, and places specific duties on people with control of work, persons with control of a workplace, and designers, manufacturers and suppliers.

The draft national *Code of Practice for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders from Manual Handling* provides practical guidance on how to achieve the Standard's requirements, and combines the current *National Code of Practice for Manual Handling* and the *National Code of Practice for the prevention of Occupational Overuse Syndrome* NOHSC (which is now part of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, but is still using the title "NOHSC" on public documents) is seeking comment on both drafts, and in particular:

- **Definitions** in the revised standard - of "duty holders", "manual handling", "control" and safe design terminology such as "use", "items" and "systems of work";
- The **revised duty holder structure**, which proposes that "duty holders" include designers, manufacturers and suppliers, persons with control of a workplace, persons with control of work, and workers; as well as their duties regarding consultation, training, hazard identification and risk assessment etc;
- Factors in the revised standard that must be assessed in a **risk assessment** - these include such things as postures adopted, repetition and speed of movements, vibration, duration and the work environment; and
- A **training clause** that requires persons with control of work to ensure that workers performing manual handling tasks receive instruction, information and training to enable them to eliminate manual handling hazards where possible, and to control the risks from hazards that can't be eliminated.

OHS Feature



The clause proposes that training should provide information on general risk management principles, task-specific safe methods of manual handling and the safe use of items and systems of work.

It should be provided whenever a worker is inducted into a job involving manual handling, where new tasks or equipment are introduced, or where an old task is re-designed.

The clause also sets out exactly who should receive training (including workers, HSRs, supervisors and persons who purchase tools or design tasks), and provides that employers should record the details of training sessions.

The Master Grocers will be submitting comment on behalf of member retailers. Jennifer Flanagan

WorkSafe Victoria Awards

When it comes to safety at work, there are individuals and organisations that go the extra distance, whose innovation and leadership raises the standard of health and safety for everyone.

If you - or someone you know - has developed an innovative safety solution or has shown commitment and dedication to workplace safety that goes 'beyond the norm', WorkSafe wants to know.

There are seven award categories open to organisations, employers and individuals. In particular, WorkSafe is interested in receiving nominations for the Small Business category.

So if you want to find out more - or if you know someone who deserves recognition for their efforts in workplace safety - contact WorkSafe now.

Information and Awards entry forms can be accessed via the WorkSafe website at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au or contact Terry Crosby from WorkSafe on 9641 1365 to discuss potential applications.

The closing date for applications is 20 May 2005.

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