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GST Classifications

Master Grocers Australia is currently working with the Australian Taxation Office in regard to a survey amongst selected retailers to establish the accuracy (or otherwise) of the GST classifications currently in use.

They have commenced the Misclassification of Supplies project examining the product lists from retailers.

To date, various retailers throughout Victoria have been notified of the project, with overwhelming support received.

Even though the project is still at its infancy with analysis of data yet to occur, they have identified a couple of issues:

- Some retailers are using archaic point of sale systems which may not be linked to their accounting systems, raising the risk of discrepancies amongst the two systems.
- A small number of retailers to date have been unaware of how to access their own Master Product Lists.

With further analysis and testing we will be able to provide additional information to assist retailers in identifying possible misclassified products.

We will continue to update you on the progress of the project in 2006.

Jennifer Flanagan

Changes To Victoria's Long Service Leave

In 2005 the Victorian Parliament passed the Long Service Leave (Amendment) Act 2005 to amend the Long Service Leave Act 1992. These changes will come into operation on 1 January 2006.

The major reforms will be:

- Unchanged qualifying period for the initial LSL entitlement of 13 weeks at 15 years - however employees will be able to take leave after 10 years service with the initial period of leave being 8.6 weeks.
- Access to pro rate LSL payments upon termination after 7 years rather than 10.
- Accrual of LSL when taking any form of paid parental leave including maternity, paternity and adoption leave.
- Casual employees are entitled to LSL under certain circumstances.
- Employees dismissed on the grounds of alleged serious and wilful misconduct do not forfeit their entitlements.
- Workers absent on WorkCover receive LSL calculated on the greater of the worker's per-injury rate of pay or the actual rate of pay at the time of taking leave.

For further information refer to our website at www.mgav.com.au

Allison Hawkins
Human Resources Officer



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