

SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT 2002

The above Act came into force on 5 May 2003. A disk copy of the consolidated Act is available from our office. Alternatively you can copy it from our website and it will be located under the NEWS button.

ACC WSMP SCHEME - HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Please note that there is an amendment or ruling as to how hazard identification should be expressed. A copy is available from Summit Head Office, or you can contact ACC 0800 222 776.

NEWS OSH FORMS AVAILABLE

We are able to supply a disk copy of the new OSH forms. They include the following important forms. Please obtain a copy from our Head Office.

- Definition of Serious Harm
- Accident report FORM 1
- Accident investigation form
- Hazard identification form
- First aid rendered form
- Notifiable diseases
- Notifiable work
- Asbestos

**STRESS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

We are able to supply a stress tool from our Head Office. Please ring us for more details and a copy. Stress is now defined as a significant hazard and you need to be aware of the potential for malicious claims. You also need to be able to detect people with a high potential for stress.

Consultant Name _____
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All information in this newsletter is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate. No liability is assumed by the author, or publisher, for any losses suffered by any person relying directly or indirectly upon this newsletter. Please call our Head Office for specialist advice.

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Autumn 2003

SURVIVAL SERIES RELEASED

Summit Systems Ltd has a goal of continual improvement in its standards. To achieve this goal we have two methodologies. One is mechanical and this involves audits of our systems and services on an annual basis to look for improvements. The second goal is to see how we can use techniques to improve outcomes for our systems and services.

We have found a new method and believe that we will now be able to increase the average accident reduction rate for our average client from 75% to 85%. To do this we will hold special training sessions with staff and they will undertake tests to ascertain their logic process, decision path and reaction time to an adverse situation. The survival tests are being well received and are producing very positive outcomes in the workforce. They help workers identify their weaknesses and to address them.

Currently, there are four types of survival tests:

1. Farming and rural
2. Drivers and contractors
3. Shops and factories
4. Safety supervisors
5. Construction sites
6. Forestry & fishing (under action)



SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES NOW REQUIRED

We have applied to the agency for issuing subsidy from OSH for the purpose of Safety Rep training. Our first priority will be to help the 1000 existing Safety Reps come up to the new code.

The indications are that the NZCTU has been working with ACC to develop a training tool very similar to our one. They will probably be given priority for funding and they have publicly claimed that is their intention to train 10,000 union reps or delegates who will be entitled to two days of annual leave per annum for their studies.

Even if we are not successful in our application for subsidy from OSH, we believe that we will automatically qualify for subsidy from NZITO. The NZITO is preparing an application for course approval at the present time. Either way, we expect to be able to offer new clients subsidy.



THE BELL WILL EVENTUALLY TOLL

According to figures issued from OSH the number of serious accidents reported in 1997 was about 66,000. About one year later the number rose to 77,000. Another year later it rose to 88,000 as reported by Gary Wilson of ACC. The number then rose to over 100,000. It then declined temporarily with the introduction of workplace accident insurance due to the fact that some insurers declined thousands of claims. The latest statistics in the ACC yearbook indicate 126,000 serious accidents. The total annual cost is about \$2,500,000,000.

The bad news is that we predict that the number of serious accidents will rise to 200,000 before there is a community backlash against the policies that do not require injury prevention measures and offer no incentives.

We also predict that the eventual cost of ACC will rise from \$2,500,000,000 per annum to \$5,000,000,000. This will then be a huge burden on our society and cause distress.



In our Winter newsletter of 2002 we predicted that there would be emphasis on things such as (a) job task analysis; (b) safety representative training; (c) ergonomics and rehabilitation; and (d) occupational hygiene.

We also predicted that Injury Prevention would become popular in about 2009. We are still holding to that prediction.

The irony is that in the USA the number one cause of death between ages one and 44 is accidents. The US Govt is absolutely committed to stopping terrorism and accidents. The fines in the US can be several million US dollars. Injury Prevention is recognised as a complex science.

LEGAL CASE NOTES FROM THE COURTS

Statistics reported in *Safeguard Magazine* January/February 2003



Mainfreight Ltd was fined \$6,000 under s.16(1)(b)(iv) after a contract worker fell 4m from an elevated personnel cage, suffering fractures to his femur, elbow and wrist. The injured man was employed by a labour hire company, and had been engaged by the defendant company to pick orders, using a cage mounted on a forkhoist. The driver of the forkhoist, who was also an employee of the labour hire company, had not been told that safety chains were needed to secure the cage to the forks. He had been told not to drive with the cage elevated, but this was not reinforced. Manukau DC 2 September.

Taranaki Sawmills Ltd was fined \$8,000 under s.6 following injuries to a worker who was attempting to clear wood from a finger-jointing machine while the blade was still rotating. Half the fine was awarded to the injured employee, who severed a thumb and part of a forefinger in the accident. A second charge under s.26 was withdrawn. New Plymouth DC 22 August.

Allied Workforce Ltd was fined \$4,000 under s.6 after an employee who had been contracted to carry out roofing work fell through a skylight onto a concrete floor. The defendant had not requested any information about the health and safety requirements for the job. The client company had earlier been fined for the same incident. In the later hearing, \$2,000 was awarded to the worker, who suffered concussion and a back injury. Manukau DC 14 August.