

### APPROVED HANDLERS FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES 2004

An Approved Handler is a person who is competent and certified to handle certain hazardous substances. To become an Approved Handler you must meet the requirements of the HASNO (personnel qualifications) Regulations 2001. This should be an easy process to follow.

An approved Handler must make sure certain hazardous substances are handled safely, and that they do not cause harm to people, nor damage to the environment. They will also be expected to provide guidance to other people handling the substances, who are not Approved Handlers, and be available to assist them if needed.

Approved Handler Certificates are obtained from Test Certifiers. Test Certifiers are individuals approved by ERMA NZ to issue certificates in their area of competency. Initially there are two ways to become an Approved Handler – a transitional certificate, or the full route.

The transitional certificate will give you two years to obtain a full certificate.

For a full certificate you will need to have the following:

Knowledge of the substances that you wish to handle:

- The hazards of the substances and how to prevent harm to people and damage to the environment
- The HSNO classifications and regulations that apply to the substances
- Any codes of practice that apply to the substances
- What to do in an emergency.

Practical experience and knowledge:

- You will need to have sufficient experience to be able to demonstrate you are competent to handle the substance, the operating equipment, and know about the protective clothing and safety equipment required.

Knowledge of HSNO:

- You will need to know some basic facts about the HSNO Act, mainly related to enforcement issues, and what the law is trying to achieve.

Consultant Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**OUR HEAD OFFICE IS: 21 Hands Road, Riccarton, Christchurch.**  
**TELEPHONE (03) 338 8820, AH 03 358 3726, FACSIMILE (03) 338 8353**  
**Email: safetynz@xtra.co.nz Web ssl.esummit.co.nz or [www.esummit.co.nz](http://www.esummit.co.nz)**



*For Business Qualifications and Risk Management*

## News & views from Summit Summer 2003



### **SUMMIT SYSTEMS IS APPROVED FOR SAFETY REP SUBSIDY**

We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer all clients formal safety rep training courses with subsidy available from NZITO. Apply to CEO of NZITO, Carl Ammon on phone 07 839 7370 and quote NZQA unit standard 20198 level 4 credit 8. The amount of subsidy is \$112. We however recommend that the candidates complete 20 credits to level 3 and do two days of training for 20198, 497 and 17593 with subsidy of \$182. This is to be followed by a further two days within 12 months to do 17601 and 17602 that will qualify for another \$140 subsidy. The candidate has then completed all compulsory subjects of the National Certificate in workplace safety with the balance to be completed within another 2 years.



We are also one of four applicants to the ERE Fund who have been invited by the Dept of Labour to reapply for a limited scheme with a closing date of 12 January 2004. The subsidy will be for Small Businesses, Farm Workers, Silviculture Workers, Labour Hire sector, Adventure Tourism, Auto Repairers and Residential Construction. We have been advised that of the total fund of \$5m there is a balance available of just \$167,000. This means that 97% was allocated to NZCTU and Business NZ.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS**

We are applying to Trade and Enterprise for a development grant to assist us with the research, design and marketing of a new quality assurance scheme designed for contractors and suppliers. It will have a few of the ISO components plus a range of things that are essential for contractors and suppliers when tendering and wanting to win tenders and gain contracts.

### **FARM SAFETY IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF**

We are appalled that the number of rural accidents far exceeds urban ones in spite of the fact that 80 of the population in NZ are in urban areas.

Summit Systems Ltd aspires to be a world leader in Injury Prevention. We are applying for a research and development grant to try and get funds to tackle some of the more disastrous activities head on. We have identified five projects that we intend to pursue over the next 12 months, hopefully with some assistance from Government Departments.

### **LEVEL-CROSSING DEATHS ARE A NIGHTMARE**

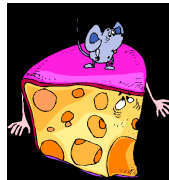
We are unnerved by the recent brutal level-crossing deaths. We recently had to attend a particularly nasty one at Darfield where the driver stopped at the compulsory stop (according to the train driver) and then suddenly moved forward in front of the train. We suspect that the driver was looking directly into the sunrise and the train was in the centre of the sunrise and could not be seen. Some eight years ago we were asked to do work for NZ Rail when the number of level-crossing deaths rose to 35 per year. At that time we identified a number of causes and made recommendations.

Our most important recommendation was that the locomotives be fitted with strobe lights that flash around like a beacon so that the locomotive is clearly visible and distinguishable from other lights and objects. This method is used in Australia. We believe that the LTSA has a responsibility to enforce this recommendation to make our roads and railways safer.

### **NEW TRAINING COURSES**

**Food Safety courses** - We are currently working on Food Safety courses and getting approval from the NZITO for these. We will package the whole course at \$56 per credit for 5 people and \$28 per credit for 10 or more. The student will be able to claim \$14 per credit.

**Hazardous substances** - We have also now completed the Hazardous substances course. Find details on page 4.



### **HEALTHGARD DISTRIBUTION LTD**

Summit Buying Ltd will soon be trading under a new name; Healthgard Distribution Ltd. Through this company we will be selling a new range of innovative health products and ideas from a number of distributors. Many of these will be new to the New Zealand market.

### **LEGAL CASE NOTES FROM THE COURTS**

**Transfield Services (New Zealand) Ltd** was fined \$10,000 under s.6 after an employee received serious burns from an 11,000v flashover while replacing a defective air break switch on a power pole. He had received \$18,000 in advances from the company at the time of the hearing, and was awarded \$5,000 of the fine (Auckland DC, 4 March 2003).



**NZL Group Ltd** was fined \$17,500 under s.6 of which \$15,000 was awarded to the dead man's family (Tauranga DC, 17 December 2002). The victim Morris Jones, and a workmate were to

reposition five refrigerated containers. The workmate used the forklift while Jones held the power cables to the refrigeration equipment. During this process the forklift was taken away to unload a container from a truck. When the task was finished Jones walked down the edge of a row of containers. Halfway down the row he stepped away from the containers and walked into the middle of the area, while talking on his RT. Meanwhile, his workmate had been instructed by the office to move the ex-truck container. He uplifted it and drove forward with the container 40cm off the ground and completely blocking his forward vision, striking Jones. There was no consistent operating procedure in place to ensure forward vision when transporting a container.

### **EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS REFORM BILL**

Changes to the Employment Relations Act are pending. Amendments are proposed in the following areas:

- Promoting more effective employment relationship problem resolution
- Equal pay, Collective bargaining and good faith
- Protecting employees' interests in change of employer situations
- Employment Relations Education leave and 4 weeks annual leave.

