

How workplace injury prevention subsidies work

Workplace injury prevention subsidies are available to help small to medium businesses access services and other support that are known to improve workplace health and safety. There are three types of subsidies:

- workforce capability development, eg training courses
- professional health and safety consulting advice
- capital investment that has health and safety outcomes, eg people moving equipment. Subsidies are generally sector-specific and are likely to be targeted at sectors where workers have a higher risk of injury. The subsidies that will be offered will change over time to meet business, sector and workplace needs.

What makes up a workplace injury prevention subsidy?

Workplace injury prevention subsidies include three elements:

1. a capped 50% contribution towards the purchase of approved training, equipment, products or programmes
2. improved access to information about the health and safety improvement solutions for which a subsidy is being offered
3. recognition for those businesses that take up an workplace injury prevention subsidies. The funding rate for each subsidy varies depending on business size and sector.

Who can apply

Small to medium businesses (typically 6 – 99 employees) in specified sectors can apply for a relevant injury prevention subsidy. Subsidies for businesses and workplaces in other sectors will be offered in the future.

Get in touch if you have any questions about the injury prevention subsidies. We'll get back to you as soon as we can. Email safety@acc.co.nz

TWO MORE TRACTOR DEATHS

The death of Nadine Tomlinson and her three-year-old son, Angus, on a northern Otago farm was the community's "worst nightmare", locals say.

For husband and father Scott Tomlinson, it had been "24-hours of hell". The pair died on their family farm near Waihemo on Sunday afternoon after crashing into a reservoir.

Waihemo ward councillor Jan Wheeler said whole community's heart went to the family.



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1 Tim 2 :5-7 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

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News & views from Summit Systems May 2019



LEAD EDITORIAL

This article is contributed and if you have something that would help our customers please let us know and we will consider it.

ETHICAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES – CHECK THE VALUE CHAIN

The next big thing in local business is ethical sources of products. Local businesses are struggling to compete with cheaper labour in China and the Third World. One of the ways they can compete aside from quality is by showing that the product was produced ethically and without screwing the farmers or natural resources of another country.

For example, if you look at eggs you will see labels saying that some are ethically sourced from well-treated hens and the supermarkets have to say what eggs are from caged/ battery hens.

If you look at fish, you will see the big fisheries are branding themselves as ethical because they have verified that the fish are from sustainable fisheries caught without killing dolphins and other species or by looting the last of the fish stocks in some Third World country. Conversely an Iwi fishing company was lambasted for using slave labour on fishing trawlers that it hired to fill its fishing quota. There are some fishing fleets that are notorious for slave labour/ people trafficking.

The other area that has been bad for slave labour is coffee and chocolate production. You will see quite a few brands now have a "fair trade" logo on the basis that they pay the farmers fairly for the coffee/ cocoa beans.

It is fairly easy for local businesses that produce their stuff in Whangarei to say that it is ethically provided because NZ workers have reasonable rights. Where it is more difficult is when it is overseas material coming into NZ. There will be a need to verify all the way down the supply chain that the goods are ethically obtained – for example, goods not made by political prisoners in a people's re-education camp in China, fish not fished in the Antarctic in breach of the Antarctic treaty.

Once that is done there will be an ongoing need to make sure that the supply lines stay ethical, presumably annual or bi-annual checks. New Zealanders can be convinced to buy ethically because society disagrees with consuming stuff that is tainted by slavery or poisoning the environment somewhere else. From Andrew Holgate Barrister

2.

QUALIFIED AND CERTIFICATED SAFETY OFFICERS

In our April newsletter edition we stated that you may find it ironic or hard to believe that having a qualified Safety Officer could actually make the difference between a prosecution and no prosecution. This is more especially the case where the title Safety Officer is not included in the Act. We then further stated -

For the appointment and accreditation of Safety Officers to actually work, they must have refresher training every two years to retain currency and they must display their certificates at the work site. In other countries they may be known as Accredited, Qualified Person, or Workplace HS Officer. In the USA there are often called Competent Person or Certified Safety Professional (CSP) with salaries of US \$100,000 and in UK Safety Officers (HSE professionals) can expect 50,000 pounds.

SAFETY OFFICER PERFORMANCE BONUS

Whilst we are not advocating that Safety Officers should be remunerated, we do think that there should be some form of allowance to recognize the importance of the role and that it is valuable to the employer which is the opposite of what happens under the appointment of a Safety Representative who has the powers of issuance of provisional improvement notices.

For this suggestion to have the maximum effect we would then advocate that the allowance be in the form of "petrol money". It would naturally follow that the allowance would be on a monthly basis of not less than \$25 and not more than \$50 depending on the size of the business. Continuation of the allowance would be subject to good performance of the Safety Officer in his or her role.

Monthly would be irregular enough to probably escape the obligations of taxable fringe benefit. A fringe benefit would become taxable if the Officer were given a company vehicle for limited private use. We do not raise this issue lightly and this is the very first time that we have raised it in more than 25 years.

This would be a non taxable allowance in the hands of the worker and For those clients that may be concerned about the risk of fringe benefit tax there is an option of buying \$30 petrol vouchers using fly bys with Z petrol stations. If you were to buy several vouchers for your cash box then it would be difficult to say that they were all intended for the same person. For sites with a safety committee but no Safety Officers, a limited scheme might be appropriate to consider.



3.

20 STRIKES AND OUT- JUKEN WILL EVENTUALLY GET REAL HELP

28 February 2019. A North Island wood processing company with 20 previous health and safety convictions over the last two decades has landed in front of the courts again. Juken New Zealand Limited was sentenced at the Kaitaia District Court, following an incident which saw a worker suffer serious steam burns. In July 2017 a worker was replacing a heat probe inside of an enclosed Triboard press, when the press was switched on, engulfing him in hot steam.

As a result of the incident, the worker suffered third-degree burns to his hands and wrists, superficial burns to his face and inhalation burns to his throat, lungs and stomach. It remains unclear whether he will regain full function of his hands.

A WorkSafe investigation found that Juken had inadequate health and safety systems in place, failed to provide appropriate controls to ensure the press was prevented from start-up while work was being carried out inside of it, and failed to provide information, training and instructions to protect workers from risks associated with the press. Juken New Zealand Limited was fined \$365,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$60,000.

SEVEN HSAW FINES IN RECENT MONTHS GORE DISTRICT SOUTHLAND PEOPLE NOT DILIGENT FOR HEALTH & SAFETY?

A Gore farm machinery company's lack of effective repairs to a tractor has resulted in a substantial fine and reparations to an injured farm worker. "Vehicle service industries must ensure diligent workmanship, systems and practices in the work that they do to prevent injuries to users," says WorkSafe, Simon Humphries.

His comments follow the sentencing today in the Gore District Court of farm machinery business Agricentre South Limited after brakes on a tractor serviced and supplied by the business failed and ran over a worker. The brakes on the second hand tractor were not working when it was first purchased by Agricentre South in 2015. Some diagnostic work and repairs had been completed when the tractor was delivered to a property for a trial in April 2016. The farm owner identified further issues with the tractor, including its brakes and Agricentre South attempted to fix the issue onfarm.

Five days into the trial, the brakes failed, and the tractor ran over a worker leaving her with fractured vertebra, fractures to her arm and injuries to both legs. The farm owner who was driving the tractor escaped the incident unharmed. WorkSafe's investigation found that Agricentre South had failed to ensure the tractor's repair history was communicated between staff, failed to ensure the tractor had fully operational brakes, and that wires for the warning lights were reconnected and working after repairing the brakes.

A fine of \$239,063 was imposed. Good Southlanders were horrified at the degree of ignorance and carelessness demonstrated by the Tractor Company.

Reparations of \$103,459 had already been awarded to the victim in April 2018.