



Design Safety Solutions

'Working with you to *Design Safety Solutions*'



A brief update of what is happening around Australia – remember you have an obligation to remain up to speed on changes to legislation that could affect your business and those you interact with, during the course of your business.

Topics in this update

- Victorian Compliance Code Amendments
- Queensland Safety Code changes
- Asbestos – What is it and Accidental find process
- Manufactured Stone – Silica Safety Rebate – NSW
- Worker dies in scissor lift incident – Victoria
- Compliance audit to begin in the construction industry – SA
- Managing risk of fall from a fragile roof – SA
- Heat & UV exposure – SA
- Unlicensed labour hire provider in Emerald fined \$60,000 – QLD

Design Safety Solutions Pty Ltd can provide you support with:

- Toolbox talks (monthly) –presentation, questions and answers to your agreed requirements.
- Site contractor compliance verification audits, providing report and corrective action follow-up.
- Safety in Design presentation and process facilitation.
- Site Safety Supervision with end of shift electronic reporting.
- SWMS review – content and compliance with SWMS audits.

Victorian Compliance Code Amendments

Effective from 19 December 2019, the Minister for Workplace Safety, approved minor amendments to 11 compliance codes made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) and four compliance codes under the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 (WIRC Act). Amendments to the OHS Act compliance codes were made to reflect amendments to section 35 and 36 of the OHS Act made by the Treasury and Finance Legislation Amendment Act 2018, and to improve style and branding consistency across existing codes.

The amended codes are:

- Confined spaces
- Demolition
- Excavation
- Hazardous manual handling
- Hazardous substances
- Noise
- Plant
- Prevention of falls in general construction
- Prevention of falls in housing construction
- Managing asbestos in workplaces
- Removing asbestos in workplaces

More information and copies of the codes can be downloaded from [WorkSafe website](#).

Queensland changes

Electrical Safety COP 2020

The updated electrical safety codes have incorporated minor amendments, following reviews for technical accuracy, usability and readability, supplemented by targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

Feb20 - DSS Safety News

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The three updated codes of practice include the Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2020 — [Electrical equipment rural industry](#), the Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2020 — [Working near overhead and underground electric lines](#) and the [Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2020 — Works](#).

The codes of practice are intended to provide continued guidance for industry and workers on electrical safety standards for the use of electrical equipment in the rural industry, for working near overhead and underground electric lines and for the works of an electricity entity.

Copies of the codes can be downloaded from [WorkSafe website](#).

Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2019

Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2019 commences 2 December 2019. This supersedes the Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2005. Find out more about the [Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2019](#).

Copies of the codes can be downloaded from [WorkSafe website](#).

Asbestos - Does your business have a process for managing the 'Accidental' find of asbestos?

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the generic term for a number of fibrous silicate minerals. Products made from asbestos cement - a bonded asbestos material - include fibro sheeting (flat and profiled) guttering and downpipes, as well as other pipes for water, drainage or flues, corrugated roofing sheets, roofing shingles and guttering.

Asbestos is a type of building material used in the building industry between the 1940s and late 1980s. The manufacture and use of asbestos products was banned nationally from 31 December 2003. This ban applies to manufacture, supply, storage, sale, use, reuse, installation and replacement of asbestos.

Friable vs non-friable asbestos

Asbestos-containing materials fall into two broad categories: friable and non-friable (also known as bonded). 'Friable' is used to refer to asbestos-containing materials that can be easily reduced to powder when crushed by hand, when dry. These materials can contain high percentages of asbestos fibres and are more likely to release these fibres into the airborne environment when disturbed. As such, they pose a greater risk to health. Friable materials must only be handled and removed by an asbestos removalist with an 'A' class licence.

'Non-friable', or bonded asbestos is used to refer to asbestos-containing materials in which the asbestos is firmly bound in the matrix of the material. These materials are unlikely to release measurable levels of asbestos fibre into the airborne environment if they are left undisturbed. Therefore, they generally pose a lower risk to health.

[More Information click here.](#)

Manufactured Stone - Silica Safety Rebate (NSW)

The Manufactured Stone - Silica Safety Rebate Program offers up to \$1000 to help manufactured stone fabrication businesses to implement solutions that address exposure to silica dust in their workplace.

Manufactured stone benchtop fabrication businesses in NSW can apply.

[More Information click here.](#)

Worker dies in scissor lift incident – Victoria

WorkSafe is investigating after a 37-year-old man died while painting inside a factory at Brunswick in Melbourne (Jan20).

It's believed the contractor was using an elevated work platform to reach windows near the factory's roof at about 1pm when he struck a steel truss and the man died at the scene.

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2020-01/worker-dies-scissor-lift-incident>

Compliance audit to begin in the construction industry – SA

From February, SafeWork SA's inspectors will be undertaking compliance audits on Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for high risk construction work (HRCW).

Construction continues to be one of the most hazardous industries, exposing workers to a variety of hazards and risks, resulting in unacceptably high level of injuries and fatalities.

SWMS are a key strategy relied upon to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities within the construction industry.

[More Information click here.](#)

Managing risk of fall from a fragile roof – SA

SafeWork SA is warning businesses about the risk of falls when working on fragile roofing, and the health and safety obligations when engaging contractors, following recent incidents where workers have fallen from height.



(SafeWork SA Website)

In December 2019, a worker was fatally injured after falling 6.5 metres when removing corrugated iron roof sheets.

More recently, SafeWork SA inspectors attended an incident where a contractor sustained serious injuries after falling more than 4 metres through asbestos guttering.

These are two serious incidents involving falling through roof structures in a short timeframe and businesses and workers need to be alert to the hazards and risks involved.

Risk control measures

Before working on any roof area or using the roof as a means of access (eg for construction, repair, maintenance, demolition or inspection), it is essential to identify all potential hazards and conduct a risk assessment.

Note: Working at Height is an ongoing focus in construction for commercial and home construction. On the spot fines are being issued.

[More Information click here.](#)

Heat & UV exposure – SA

With South Australian summers being well known for their extreme heat and dryness and damaging levels of ultraviolet radiation for most of the year, we remind employers of their responsibility to manage risks associated with heat stress and overexposure to UV radiation.

[More Information click here.](#)



Unlicensed labour hire provider in Emerald fined \$60,000 – QLD

Monstershield Pty Ltd has been convicted and fined \$60,000 in the Emerald Magistrates Court for operating without a labour hire licence.

The Labour Hire Licensing Queensland's compliance unit was tipped off that Monstershield was providing workers for grape picking but didn't hold an appropriate licence.

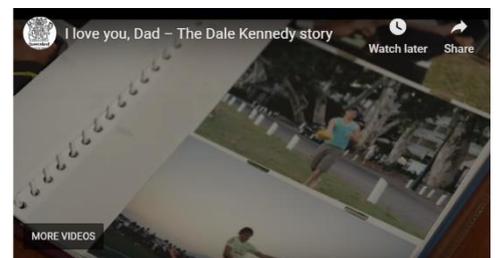
Under the scheme, corporations face maximum fines of \$400,350, while for individuals it's almost \$138,000 - or three-years' imprisonment.

[More Information click here.](#)

I love you, Dad – The Dale Kennedy story - Qld

The Dale Kennedy story shares a family's heartbreak after their son's **Preventable** death while working in the ceiling space of a Cairns school.

Dan Kennedy: I think Dale leant against the air-conditioner unit to move his sol board just a bit further, and when he put his hand down on the beam and his back, he got electrocuted through his back.



Dr Christopher Andrew: Electrical injuries, and particularly industrial electrical injuries, are very common. Whether you live or die can't be summed up in one particular little rule or otherwise. It depends on the degree of exposure, the amount of current that passes through the body, where it passes. Let's say someone contacts electric current through their two hands. The current will pass up one arm, through the chest and to the other side, broadly speaking.

The danger there is that it passes very close to the heart, and it can induce heart rhythms which stops its ability to pump blood regularly to the remainder of the body.

[More Information click here.](#)

**Stay safe, look after
your workmates.**