



Design Safety Solutions

'Working with you to *Design Safety Solutions*'



<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au>

National taskforce to tackle dust diseases

The Australian Government Department of Health has established a National Dust Disease Taskforce to develop a national approach to the prevention, early identification, control and management of dust diseases in Australia.

The incidence of lung disease caused by dust, particularly silicosis, has increased in recent years but little is known about the prevalence of these diseases. Accelerated silicosis is a preventable lung disease resulting from inhalation of very fine silica dust.

While it can occur in various industries, there has been a recent cluster of cases related to the manufacture and installation of artificial stone bench tops. The Australian Government will provide \$5 million to support the taskforce and related measures. These include establishing a National Dust Disease Register, and new research to support understanding, prevention and treatment of preventable occupational lung diseases.

More Information – www.health.gov.au

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au>

Changes to protect Victorians working with engineered stone.

The Victorian OHS Regulations have been amended to prohibit uncontrolled cutting, grinding and abrasive polishing of engineered stone with power tools.

Respirable crystalline silica dust is a hazardous substance which can lead to serious health effects if it is inhaled. Engineered stone, sometimes also called reconstituted stone, contains at least 80 per cent crystalline silica.

When engineered stone products are processed, for example by cutting, grinding or polishing with a power tool, very fine dust containing respirable crystalline silica is released into the air.

People working with these products, such as stonemasons, are at high risk of being exposed to the dust if it is not controlled. Exposure can result in silicosis, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, kidney damage and scleroderma.

The amendments come into effect on 20 August 2019.

More Information – <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au>

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au>

New resource to boost psychological health in the workplace

Work-related stress can be caused by psychosocial hazards and factors in the workplace, including poor workplace relationships, high work demands, long working hours and exposure to workplace violence. These factors may also be compounded by domestic issues such as financial problems or relationship difficulties.

Although PCBUs cannot control personal issues affecting their workers, they must eliminate or minimise exposure to work-related hazards and factors that can increase the risk of psychological harm. The Preventing and managing risks to work-related psychological health (PDF, 503.52 KB) handbook is a practical tool to assist PCBUs with managing work-related psychosocial hazards and creating a mentally healthy workplace.

The handbook highlights how workers are likely to be exposed to a combination of psychosocial hazards and factors - some may always be present, while others only occasionally. It looks at:

Sep19 - DSS Safety News

Sean Bourke MAIHS, RSP (Aust), MMgt, Dip OHS

✉ Sean.Bourke@DesignSafetySolutions.com.au

☎ 0404 829 585

- high and low job demands
- low job control
- poor support
- poor workplace relationships (includes work-related bullying)
- low role clarity
- poor organisational change management
- low reward and recognition
- poor environmental conditions or remote and isolated work.

The handbook can help PCBU's refresh their psychosocial risk assessment or conduct a psychosocial risk assessment in consultation with work teams.

More Information – [Mentally healthy workplaces toolkit](#)

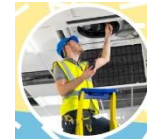
[Head protection](#)



- Replace the head harness at intervals no longer than **two** years as per AS/NZS 1800:1998.
- Replace your hard hat at regular intervals – hard hats don't last forever, even with proper care, wear and tear is inevitable, as a result AS/NZS 1800:1998 3.4 states that the average service life for a safety helmet is **three** years from time of issue or earlier if the helmet has changed in colour, exhibits any signs of wear or damage due to impact or deterioration.

More Information – <https://www.3m.com.au>

[WorkSafe WA releases manual task guides for electricians](#)



Tasks carried out by electricians can increase the risk of musculoskeletal injuries such as sprains and strains due to awkward postures, repetitive actions and excessive force required to lift, carry or move equipment. This series of fact sheets have been specifically developed for electricians to highlight the risks and provide solutions to help prevent injury.

More Information – [WorkSafe WA - manual task guides](#)

[AS/NZS 4801:2001 has recently been superseded by AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018](#)



National management system standard AS/NZS 4801:2001 has recently been superseded by AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018, and AS/NZS 4801:2001 will require transitioning to AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 within the next three years according to The International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) Requirements for the Migration to ISO 45001:2018 from OHSAS 18001:2007(link is external) Mandatory Document.

More Information on the transition process – [Link to JAS-ANZ.Org publication](#)

Industry News

Do any of these make you want to reinforce the expected behaviours in the workplace? I hope so.

Management company fined \$45,000 for misuse of substation – WA

The company that managed Morley Galleria Shopping Centre when two men were killed and two severely injured in an explosion in 2015 has been fined \$45,000.

When fire-fighters entered the substation after the incident, they found a wooden bench in front an exit door. This blocked exit door was the closest door to the switchgear that exploded.

Construction company fined \$35,000 + costs \$10,112 for unprotected edge – Vic

Star (Australia) Construction Pty Ltd trading as Knight Building Group engaged V&R Solid Plastering Pty Ltd to install polystyrene and plaster exterior walls. **Star as the principal contractor** had management and control of the workplace where two double storey townhouses were being built.

On 10 November 2016, 2 V&R employees were observed working at height and near an unprotected veranda edge. There was a risk of falling from a height of 4.8 metres.

Tradesman convicted in relation to bullying young workers, fined \$6,000 + costs – NSW

SafeWork NSW is encouraging businesses to remember mental health at work after a Hunter tradesman was convicted of failing to take reasonable care that his actions did not adversely affect the health and safety of two young workers.

SafeWork Special Services Executive Director, Andrew Gavrielatos said “The defendant pleaded guilty to having failed to comply with his obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act NSW* (2011) to take reasonable care that he did not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons. The carpenter and joiner admitted to bullying behaviour towards two workers over an extended period of time including verbal abuse, name calling, swearing, belittling and threats. “The tradesman’s behaviour **caused the young apprentices to feel distressed and anxious, with both reporting to have nightmares and be fearful of going to work.**

“The court also ordered the tradesman to attend courses of training in bullying and harassment and anger management and emotional intelligence.

Nine months jail for compensation fraud of in excess \$112,000 – Vic

The court heard that Andres Canepa Uranga, 36 secretly began working as a painter just 10 days after claiming he was unable to work and later used three fake medical certificates to continue to receive benefits after his GP banned him when he became aggressive and kicked in the doctor’s front gate. The fraud was first detected in August last year when an independent medical expert contacted Uranga’s doctor about a possible return to work, only to find out the GP had not seen Uranga since February 2017.

The court heard numbers had been cut out of some certificates and applied over existing dates on others using sticky tape. A subsequent WorkSafe investigation revealed Uranga received more than \$87,000 working as a painter from 25 March 2015 to 27 January 2017.

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