



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner

## Fact Sheet

# Advice for funding recipients: Applying the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme

The Australian Government is committed to improving occupational health and safety (OHS) in the building and construction industry.

As a funding recipient you may be obliged to engage a builder who has been accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme is set out in the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Accreditation Scheme) Regulations 2005*. This fact sheet outlines your responsibilities and how to meet them.

### How the Scheme affects you

Under the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act (2005)*, Australian Government agencies can only fund 'building work' when, subject to thresholds, an accredited builder is engaged.

If an Australian Government agency has provided you with funding for building work, your funding agreement should include a clause requiring that contracts for building work are entered into with builders accredited under the Scheme.

The Australian Government will be unable to make funds available to you should an unaccredited builder be engaged. Subcontractors, project managers not undertaking building work, architects, designers and other parties not undertaking building work do not require accreditation.

### Financial thresholds

You will need to engage an accredited builder if the contract under which building work is undertaken is worth at least **\$3 million**. The Scheme applies to projects that are indirectly funded by the Australian Government where:

- the value of the Australian Government contribution to the project is at least \$5 million and represents at least 50 per cent of the total construction project value or
- the Australian Government contribution to a project is \$10 million or more, irrespective of the proportion of Australian Government funding.

### Engaging a builder

Your tender documentation and contracts for building work must state that the Scheme applies to the project, and that you require the builder to be accredited under the Scheme in order to perform the work.

The Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) provides Model Clauses for use by funding recipients for these purposes. The Model Clauses are available at [fsc.gov.au/modelclauses](http://fsc.gov.au/modelclauses).

Below is an example of a model clause used during an approach to market.

### The Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme

- A successful tenderer must be accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) established by the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* when entering into contracts for building work covered by the Scheme, and maintain accreditation under that Scheme while the building work is being carried out.
- A successful tenderer must comply with all conditions of Scheme accreditation.

A list of accredited builders is also available at [fsc.gov.au/accreditationregister](http://fsc.gov.au/accreditationregister).

## Reporting

Funding recipients assist the OFSC to achieve better outcomes for the building and construction industry by completing reports on projects which fall within the scope of the Scheme. There are two reports:

1. contract notification report, completed once a building and construction contract has been signed; and
2. end of project OHS report, completed at the end of the project.

Report templates are available within the Guidance for Government Agencies and Funding Recipients document, available at [fsc.gov.au](http://fsc.gov.au). Completed forms can be submitted to [ofsc@deewr.gov.au](mailto:ofsc@deewr.gov.au).

### For further information you can:

- visit the FSC website at [fsc.gov.au](http://fsc.gov.au)
- contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**
- contact the OFSC via email at [ofsc@deewr.gov.au](mailto:ofsc@deewr.gov.au)

This fact sheet is correct as of 28 August 2009. Produced by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.

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