

Introduction to Reporting under the Scheme

Introduction

The role of the Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) is to promote and foster improved occupational health and safety in the Australian building and construction industry, so that work is performed safely, as well as on time and on budget. The powers and functions of the FSC are outlined in the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* (BCII Act). The FSC is supported by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC).

A key function of the OFSC has been to develop, implement and administer the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme). Through the Scheme, the OFSC is using the power and influence of the Australian Government as a major client and provider of capital in the building and construction industry, to promote and improve positive health and safety outcomes.

Scheme Thresholds

Scheme thresholds apply to directly funded Australian Government projects with a value of \$3 million or more and include indirectly funded Australian Government building projects where:

- The value of the Australian Government contribution to a 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.

Building work is considered directly funded where the Australian Government or a Commonwealth authority enters into a contract with persons who will carry out the building work, or who may arrange for the building work to be carried out.

Building work is considered indirectly funded where it is funded by the Australian Government or a Commonwealth authority through grants or other programs. This includes building projects where the Australian Government provides funding through a funding agreement or grants to a body that may then contract with persons who will undertake the building work or arrange for the building work to be carried out.

Reporting Requirements

Under Regulation 14 of the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Accreditation Scheme) Regulations 2005* (the Regulations), it is a condition of accreditation under the Scheme that accredited contractors comply with the reporting requirements of the OFSC.

Each accredited contractor is required to lodge biannual activity reports to document the operation of their OHS management systems even when no Scheme projects are currently being undertaken. The biannual report collects updated figures on a defined set of measures and is used to help the OFSC to assess the current OHS status of all accredited contractors, and to determine trends in accredited contractor OHS performance.

This report provides an overview of the analysis of the data collected from biannual activity reports for the period July to December 2009. Comparisons are also made with data collected in previous biannual periods.

It should be noted that data provided to the OFSC by accredited contractors under the Scheme has not been the subject of independent audit or verification and should be treated as indicative only.