



Fact Sheet

Federal Safety Commissioner

The role of Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) came into effect in June 2005. The FSC is supported by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) located in the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The functions of the FSC are described in Section 30 of the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* and include:

- promoting occupational health and safety (OHS) in relation to building work;
- administering the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme);
- promoting the benefits of the Scheme; and
- disseminating information about the Scheme.

The FSC was established to enable the Australian Government to use its influence as a client and provider of capital to improve the building and construction industry's OHS performance.

Accreditation Scheme

One of the FSC's key functions is to develop and implement the Scheme.

The Scheme reflects the Australian Government's commitment to the *National OHS Strategy 2002-2012*. This strategy, which is supported by all State and Territory governments as well as employer and employee groups, calls for governments to strengthen their influence on OHS across all industries.

Through the Scheme, the Government is fostering a culture where work must be performed safely, as well as on budget and on time. Under the Scheme and subject to certain thresholds, only accredited head contractors can enter into contracts for building work that is funded directly or indirectly by the Australian Government. For more information see the fact sheets 'The Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme', 'Applying the Scheme to directly funded building work' and 'Applying the Scheme to indirectly funded building work'.

Under the Scheme, the OFSC conducts desktop and on-site assessments to determine an applicant's suitability for accreditation. The FSC considers the evidence obtained from desktop assessments and on-site audits together with the recommendations of the OFSC to determine whether a building company is suitable to be accredited and/or continue with its accreditation under the Scheme.

This fact sheet is correct as of 6 March 2008. Produced by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.

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Consultation, collaboration and communication

The FSC is working with the building and construction industry to make Australian worksites safer. This has involved direct consultation with companies and building industry representatives, participation in conferences and forums, establishment of formal reference groups and the publication of research and case studies.

The FSC is also working with Australian Government agencies to ensure OHS is a key factor in their building and construction procurement, from the letting of tenders to the delivery of projects safely, on time and on budget.

This cooperative approach is raising OHS awareness and resulting in considerable industry and Australian Government demand for OHS advice, expertise and information.

Other initiatives

The FSC is delivering the following initiatives to help improve OHS in the building and construction industry and to underpin delivery of the Scheme:

- developing safety principles and guidance;
- assisting subcontractors with a systematic approach to OHS;
- establishing working relationships with State and Territory OHS agencies;
- highlighting case studies to promote innovative OHS responses for challenging building and construction projects;
- forming industry and government reference groups to advise the FSC on matters impacting on the building and construction industry's OHS performance;
- developing a system for measuring building and construction industry OHS performance.

For further information you can:

- visit the FSC website at fsc.gov.au
- contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**
- contact the OFSC via email at ofsc@deewr.gov.au