



Slide 1

Australian Government
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner




Improving Safety through Behavioural Change in the Construction Industry

Tom Fisher

Slide 2

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The Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner



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Slide 3



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Federal Safety Commissioner Vision

- World-class safety throughout the Australian building and construction industry



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The Federal Safety Commissioner

Functions Include:

- Promoting best practice OHS on Australian building and construction projects
- Administering the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme
- Promoting a safety culture through education, consultation, promotion, information sharing, safe design and providing best practice guidance




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Federal Safety Commissioner's 2005 - 2006 Progress Report




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Safety Principles and Guidance

1. Industry Participants should demonstrate a tangible commitment to developing a safety culture within their companies and across the building and construction industry.
2. Clients should demonstrate OHS leadership at all stages of the construction process by acting as exemplars in their relationships with other industry participants.
3. Industry participants should strive to develop cooperative business relationships to ensure that time, cost and quality objectives do not compromise a commitment to OHS.




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Safety Principles and Guidance

4. Industry participants should ensure that safe design and constructability is considered at the planning and procurement stages to reduce or eliminate hazards and control risks before construction commences.
5. Industry participants should ensure that effective consultation and communication arrangements are in place so that all parties are aware of OHS considerations and of their responsibilities.





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Safety Principles and Guidance

6. Industry participants should ensure that a systematic approach is taken to the management of OHS risks and hazards.
7. Industry participants should ensure they maintain effective OHS measures across the construction project life cycle and are able to respond to changes in the construction environment.
8. Industry participants should monitor, report and benchmark OHS at the site, project and company levels to improve and compare OHS performance.





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OHS Accreditation Scheme

- The Federal Safety Commissioner is using the influence of the Australian Government as a client and provider of capital to foster improved Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) performance in the building and construction industry.



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Slide 11

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OHS Accreditation Scheme

STAGE 1

Phase 1 – Provisional Accreditation
from 1 March 2006

- \$6 Million or more
- Directly Funded
- Head Contractors

Phase 2 – Full Accreditation
from 1 October 2006



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OHS Accreditation Scheme

STAGE 2 - Post 2006 accreditation

- Directly and indirectly funded
- Thresholds announced by Minister 23 Oct 2006




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Criteria

1. Demonstrated senior management commitment to OHS;
2. Whole-of-project consultation and communication;
3. Integration of safe design into the risk management project;
4. Demonstrated effective subcontractor OHS management;
5. Whole-of-project performance measurements; and
6. OHS training requirements.



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Recent Developments



Since March '06 –

- Over 150 applications received to date
- 58 Companies accredited




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OHS Problem Areas Found

- OHS documentation & onsite situation discrepancies;
- Insufficient senior management sign-off on OHS project plans;
- No documentation of senior management visiting project sites for OHS purposes;
- Principal contractors received 'safe work method statements' (SWMS) and not OHS plans;
- Few able to produce OHS Plan sufficient for the accreditation process



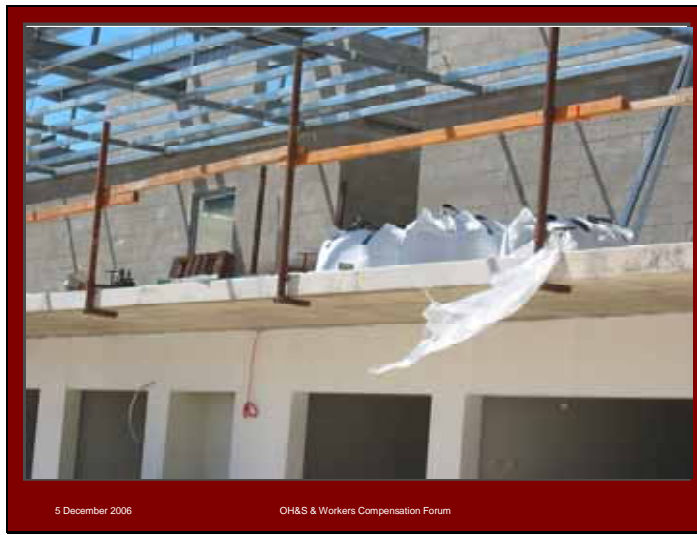
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Slide 16

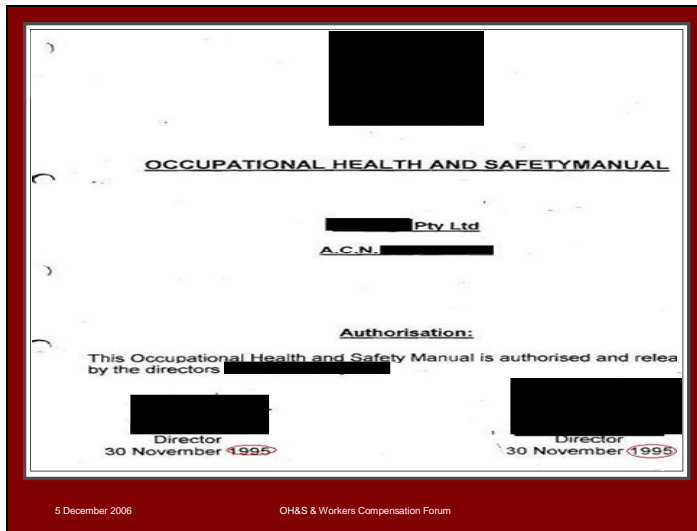


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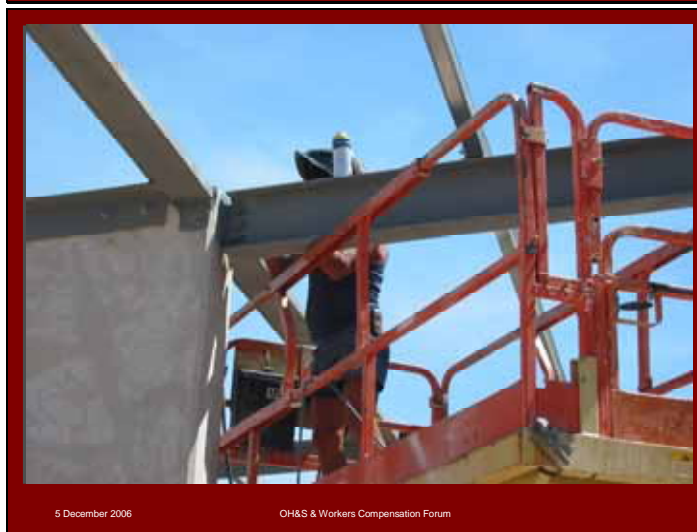
Slide 17



Slide 18



Slide 19



Slide 20



Slide 21



Slide 22



Slide 23

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Post Provisional Accreditation Findings

- Senior industry management positions are generally being allocated overall OHS project responsibility;
- New subcontractors and workers are commonly undergoing a site induction program; and
- OHS policies have been established and communicated to everyone;



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Slide 25

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Any Questions or Discussion Points...

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