



Fact Sheet – Federal Safety Commissioner

The role of Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC) was established by the Australian Government in June 2005. The FSC is supported by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) located in the Department of Jobs and Small Business.

The functions of the FSC are described in Section 38 of the *Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Act 2016* and include:

- promoting workplace health and safety (WHS) in relation to building work;
- auditing compliance with National Construction Code performance requirements in relation to building materials;
- administering the Work Health and Safety 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 WHS performance.

Accreditation Scheme

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

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.

Under the Scheme, the OFSC reviews applications and conducts on-site audits to determine an

applicant's suitability for accreditation. The FSC considers the evidence obtained from these processes 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.

Consultation, collaboration and communication

The FSC works with the building and construction industry to make Australian worksites safer. In 2014, this included consultation with companies and building industry representatives in undertaking a comprehensive review of OFSC and the Scheme.

The FSC also continues to work with Australian Government agencies to ensure WHS 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 WHS awareness and resulting in considerable industry and Australian Government agency demand for WHS advice, expertise and information.

Other initiatives

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

- improving online reporting capabilities for companies;
- improving working relationships with state and territory WHS agencies;
- working with relevant stakeholders to help drive best practice solutions to key issues;

- highlighting case studies to promote innovative WHS responses for challenging building and construction projects; and
- coordinating industry and government reference groups.

For further information:

- Visit the FSC website at www.fsc.gov.au
- Contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**
- Contact the OFSC via email at ofsc@jobs.gov.au

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