



Fact Sheet – Hazards Research Project

The research project

The Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) has engaged researchers from RMIT University to conduct a research project to determine if the 19 high risk hazard criteria which the OFSC focuses on remain appropriately targeted towards the hazards on building sites with the highest risk of injury. As part of this project, researchers will:

- establish if universal definitions exist in industry for serious injury and injurious hazard;
- identify the most injurious hazards in the industry and how they are measured/recorded
- identify current mitigation strategies for each hazard
- identify trends or emerging issues.

Methodology

RMIT is conducting the planning, project design, data collection and analysis for the research project with OFSC support.

RMIT intends to collect and analyse data from Commonwealth and state and territory government sources – including the OFSC, Safework Australia and jurisdictional regulators if possible – as well as conducting focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders with WHS experience in the industry.

Outcome

RMIT will deliver its findings to the OFSC by the end of the 2018-19 financial year. The findings will be used to inform the refinement of the hazard criteria in consultation with industry. The outcomes of the project will also be communicated broadly to benefit key stakeholders, including industry and other Government agencies.

Background

The OFSC manages the WHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme). Subject to financial thresholds, head contractors of building work funded directly or indirectly by the Commonwealth must be accredited under the Scheme.

Accredited companies and companies seeking accreditation are audited against Scheme criteria to ensure they have appropriate safety measures in place. 19 of the Scheme criteria are high risk hazards, including:

- working from heights
- confined space
- excavation
- mobile plant.

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@dewr.gov.au

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