

News update 20 February 2013

I started as Project Officer early last September and have been familiarising myself with the multitude of issues within the three Primary Industries, with assistance from the CEO's to ascertain what resources are already available, and to access individuals and their particular problems. I feel the key is in overcoming the initial trepidation caused by the sanctions within the WHS Act / Regulations. Most Persons Conducting a Business or undertaking (PCBU's) I have spoken with are very WHS conscious and welcome the opportunity to have a non-regulator advisor to consult.

A "WHS Start-up kit" has been compiled to provide initial reference to elements of the WHS Act, Regulations, Codes of Practice and Industry guides and resources. Also a "Guide" has been constructed to give an overview of the Work Health and Safety ACT and for inclusion in the "kit" with references to find the full documentation. I am available to explain how to access the information and help with all your WHS concerns.

The requirement of (PCBU's) to maintain mandatory Safety Management Systems or Plans (SMS) is causing the most headaches for all three industries, be it a remote cattle station, a mango farm, fishing trawler, food processor or packing sheds. The SMS is to demonstrate current safety procedures are in place and being used. For example, the induction of new and existing employees in workplaces must be documented and systems of recording hazards, identification and the control measures taken. These should be done by regular checklists or audits, signed and dated by the relevant parties.

For the Seafood Industry a worthwhile website for an "off-the-shelf" safety Management System which can be adapted to individual worksites is available online at the Queensland Government Bookshop or we can provide relevant documents and process.

Reference: "Commercial and Fishing Ships Safety Management System" There are three categories:

- a) For vessels greater than eight metres in length (reference MAR003).
- b) For vessels eight metres and less (reference MAR002),
- c) Also there is a CD to complete on the computer, print off and store in an accompanying folder (reference MAR001).

Further information is available on www.pitac.org.au refer to the PISAFE for assistance and services offered, this is a free of charge service. Or contact me directly at:

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