

Safety in Victoria's major hazard facilities

Victoria's 13 existing occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations have been consolidated into a single, streamlined document.

Together with the modernised *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (the OHS Act), a new streamlined regulation will improve health and safety in Victoria by making it easier for employers and workers to understand their safety obligations, while at the same time cutting red tape and compliance costs.

In making the regulation, WorkSafe has focussed on removing duplication and improving consistency with National Standards.

People who comply with their obligations now will be well placed to comply with the new streamlined regulation.

The Victorian economy will benefit from a general reduction in compliance costs, and helping to reduce the number of people injured or killed at work will benefit the Victorian community.

Safety on a large scale

Many major hazard facilities are an essential part of the State's infrastructure. These facilities handle dangerous goods in large quantities and have the potential for major incidents, which can impact not only workers at the facility but the community and the environment.

The impact of incidents such as the Longford gas plant explosion in 1998 has highlighted the need for a regulatory regime which is designed to prevent major incidents from occurring.

The major hazard facilities regulations give effect to the provisions of the National Standard.

Key Issues

The regulation incorporates the existing obligations that operators of major hazard facilities have, and clarifies the point at which a review of a Safety Management System is necessary, as well as reducing the administrative burden on employers by enabling WorkSafe to advise site operators of registration expiry before applying for a licence.

There are also clearer provisions to cover the prevention of unauthorised access to a major hazard facility.

Further information

This information sheet is a guide only. Further information, including web pages providing general advice on Victoria's new OHS Regulation, is available on the WorkSafe website, at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au. To obtain hard copies please call WorkSafe on 1800 136 089.

WorkSafe Victoria is a division of the Victorian WorkCover Authority.