

# Safety Chat



**HAZCON**

ISSUE 1 - March 2011

## 2011 - Significant Changes in OH&S



“OHS harmonisation means national uniformity of the Australian OHS legislative framework (comprised of a model OHS Act, supported by model OHS regulations and model codes of practice) complemented by a nationally consistent approach to compliance policy and enforcement policy. This commits all states, territories and the Commonwealth to work together to develop and implement model OHS legislation.”

The Council of Australian Governments identified the need for harmonisation of OHS as a reform priority in contributing to the development of a seamless national economy. This is an important change as businesses will be required to comply with one set of laws, regardless of location. The benefits are huge in reducing the costs of compliance and allowing development and implementation of effective company-wide prevention strategies.

Safe Work Australia has developed draft national model OHS laws, a model WHS Act and Regulations and model Codes of Practice which are now out for Public Comment. They represent the most significant change in the OH&S legislative framework in Victoria since 1985.

By 1st January 2012, each state, territory and the Commonwealth will be required to enact their own laws that mirror the national model laws. This requires all states, territories and the Commonwealth to enact the OHS Act, OHS Regulations and the supporting Codes of Practice.

There has been an enormous amount of work put into the model legislation. The magnitude of the change will mean every business will have a significant amount of work to do to ensure the changes in the legislation is reflected in their business systems and work practices. HAZCON is developing an audit and implementation tool to assist business to react to the National Legislative framework in a cost effective and strategic way.

For further information on National Harmonisation, please contact HAZCON on 1800 429 266.

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## Recent Floods Raise Concerns



The recent flooding across the state has raised significant concerns about indoor air quality and airborne biological materials such as moulds and bacteria.

It is recommended that in areas of concern, the affected buildings are thoroughly inspected and remedial work implemented to remove mould or biological growth. Sources of residual water should be dried and the building thoroughly ventilated to ensure good air movement and humidity levels are within acceptable ranges.

Where employees are concerned about indoor air quality (IAQ) and biological contaminants or ill health as a result of working in a potentially contaminated environment, monitoring of IAQ parameters, airborne mould and bacteria can be conducted and the results provided to the employees.

Generally, reducing the dampness in the buildings quickly will minimise long term problems although there may be residual odours in areas with poor air movement.

**Check out our new website  
at [www.hazcon.com.au](http://www.hazcon.com.au)**

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## New WorkSafe Victoria Approved Courses



HAZCON have been approved by WorkSafe Victoria to deliver the two new WorkSafe Approved training courses for managers and supervisors:

- Six day OHS Course for Managers and Supervisors
- One day Extension Course for Managers and Supervisors

The Six day course is designed to supply the basic information and skills required for managers and supervisors to identify hazards, implement control measures, consult with employees to resolve health and safety issues and to assist injured workers successfully return to work.

The One day Extension course has been designed to extend the knowledge of managers and supervisors who have recently attended a Five Day Initial Level OHS training course for HSRs.

Both of these courses are aimed at the frontline or shopfloor managers dealing with day to day operations, supervising employees and making sure the job gets done. They are entrusted with making sure legal obligations are met, so it is vital they understand their roles and responsibilities.

By attending either of these courses, the attendees will gain a basic understanding of their legal roles and responsibilities, consultation and issue resolution, as well as the importance of providing OHS information, instruction, training, support and supervision to all employees.

WorkSafe are looking for employers to be proactive in managing health and safety. The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 requires employers to provide such training to employees as is necessary to enable the employees to perform their work in a manner that is safe and without risks to health.

HAZCON are happy to discuss your health and safety training needs. Please contact Richard Forster on 1800 429 266 or [richard.forster@hazcon.com.au](mailto:richard.forster@hazcon.com.au) for further details.

## Occupational Hygiene News

### Heat Stress in Demolition, Construction and Maintenance Activities During Summer



Many different occupations can be exposed to heat stress including outdoor workers in the summer months and occupations that are exposed to plant that produce radiant heat. Typically heat stress can be a problem in outages, boiler maintenance, drying units, reaction vessels and furnaces.

Workplace heat exposure, whether a part of the environment, or caused by work processes, can be a potential hazard or a source of discomfort.

Heat stress occurs when the body can not maintain its normal body temperature. Symptoms of heat stress can range from cramps, dizziness and fainting, heat exhaustions and heat stroke.

If you are concerned about heat stress in your workplace, HAZCON can undertake heat stress assessments and compare your results against the current standards.

### Chemical Monitoring Confirms Controls are Working Well



Chemical monitoring of airborne contaminants is a useful tool in determining if the control strategies in place are effective.

It is also useful for determining if employees are likely to be exposed to hazardous levels of airborne chemicals such as solvents, hydrocarbons and welding fumes.

The key is good planning and understanding what the risks are associated with using specific chemical products. Risk assessments prior to conducting work and using the MSDSs should enable a range of control strategies to be implemented.

A well thought occupational hygiene programme can provide useful data and provide confidence to the work force that they are working in a safe environment.



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## HSE Audits as a Management Tool for Reviewing Business Performance



HSE audits are a critical part of the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) guide as outlined by W. Edwards Deming in the 1950's.

A critical part to this is the checking process on operational effectiveness of HSE.

The process of checking comes in many guises; however the most effective method is through comprehensive audits. Audits verify through the examination of objective evidence that the planned activities are actually being implemented. The breadth of the audit can be determined by internal policies, regulatory requirements or on areas where organisations believe their greatest risks lie.

Audits can either focus solely on procedural frameworks designed to meet an auditable criteria or can check that the HSE systems and processes are understood by the people who are supposed to follow them and that they achieve the desired results.

Effective HSE audits look not only at the documentation but assess the basic HSE risks of the organisation and ensure that these risks have been addressed.

Interviews and discussion with employees is an important aspect of determining if the HSE system is understood and used by all members of the workforce.

The outcomes of audits lead to the Act cycle that addresses the failings identified during the audit. The process should enable senior management to understand strengths and weaknesses of the existing HSE systems and enable strategic plans to be implemented which address any gaps.

HAZCON Pty Ltd provides quality HSE auditing services to ensure you are meeting legal obligations and company expectations.

If you would like further information, or to organise a HSE audit, please contact Ian Good on 1800 429 266.

## Stay updated more often..



HAZCON will now be providing Safety Chat newsletters 3 times a year. This will provide more frequent updates and the latest news in OHS for our clients.

HAZCON are also excited to announce the launch of our new website in March. You will find it easier to navigate through the pages and with a new and improved public course booking process. Please visit [www.hazcon.com.au](http://www.hazcon.com.au) to view our new website and to find out about the services HAZCON can offer you.

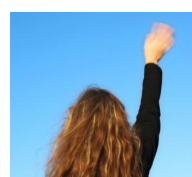
## HAZCON's Training & Services Brochure now an Annual Release



HAZCON's Training & Services Brochure is now released annually to assist clients to plan their training calendar.

A copy of our 2011 Training & Services Brochure can be obtained from our website [www.hazcon.com.au](http://www.hazcon.com.au) or by contacting a member of our training and admin team on 1800 429 266.

## Comings and Goings



HAZCON would like to welcome Marianne Yencken (BSc, MSc, CIH) as a Senior Occupational Hygienist and Jessica Hall (BSc(OT) Grad Dip OHS) as a Trainer and Ergonomist into the Melbourne Office.

Michael Shone has taken a senior position in the Western Australian Mining Industry and Kerri-Ann Jessep has moved to Qatar in an International Hygiene role.

We wish them all the very best in their future roles.

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## Innovative Courses in Occupational Hygiene



Work your way towards your International Certificate in Occupational Hygiene...

HAZCON is running a series of internationally recognised occupational hygiene modules at its purpose built training facility in Melbourne. The courses supported by the International Occupational Hygiene Association are divided into nine modules of 5 days covering all the key aspects of occupational hygiene:

Supported By



- W201 Fundamentals of Occupational Hygiene
- W501 Measurement of Hazardous Substances
- W502 Thermal Environment
- W503 Noise - Measurements and Its Effects
- W504 Asbestos and Other Fibres
- W505 Control of Hazardous Substances
- W506 Ergonomics Essentials
- W507 Health Effects of Hazardous Substances
- W508 Skin at Work

Students can choose to take one or more of these courses, aiming for stand-alone qualifications in areas of specific interest and relevance. For those wanting to work towards an international professional occupational hygiene qualification, a group of six Modules can be studied, which must include the core Modules W501, W503, W505 and W507, which can then work towards the Intermediate International Certificate in Occupational Hygiene Practice.

The courses are run by professional, qualified Occupational Hygienists who are recognised for their expertise in the field.

For further information on these courses, or to view our public training dates, please contact our Training & Administration team on 1800 429 266. Alternatively, you can visit our website [www.hazcon.com.au](http://www.hazcon.com.au)

## New and Improved WorkSafe Victoria Approved Refresher Course for HSRs



HAZCON have recently updated the course contents of our WSV Approved Refresher Course for HSRs. We realise the importance for HSRs, Managers and Supervisors to be kept regularly updated with the latest OHS news and legislation, and have rewritten our course to suit these requirements.

The course now covers the following course content:

- National Harmonisation Scheme
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004 - Revision
- Workplace Health and Safety Representation
- Hazard identification
- Manual Handling
- Prevention of Falls
- Working Alone
- Workplace Monitoring & Health Surveillance

Remember, Section 67 of the OH&S Act 2004 states that HSRs are entitled to attend annual WSV Approved Refresher courses. So if you're due for your annual Refresher, please feel free to contact one of our Training & Admin team members to book yourself in. You can also book online through our website: [www.hazcon.com.au](http://www.hazcon.com.au)

Location	Date	Course Code	Cost per person
Trafalgar	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	11-0007	\$260 incl GST
Notting Hill	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	11-0033	\$260 incl GST
Notting Hill	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11-0089	\$260 incl GST
Trafalgar	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	11-0063	\$260 incl GST
Trafalgar	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11-0064	\$260 incl GST
Notting Hill	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11-0090	\$260 incl GST

## CONTACT HAZCON

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