

REVIEW OF THE MODEL WHS LAWS

Q1) I very rarely use the Regulations, I go straight to the Codes, as what's in the Regulation, is most likely in the Codes as well. I like having the WHS Act, as this is very useful in WHS meeting.

Q2) This response is more of the Regulations not adequately supporting the Codes, and this is just one example. Confined Space in the Regulation is total different to the confined space in the codes, I work in what I believe is a confined space, 737 aircrafts, It has one entry point, you have to work on your knees to load and unload the aircraft, movement of the body is very limited due to the size of the work area, you can be working in this area of up to 30 minutes, yet I'm not sure if this is a confined space according to the code, 1.1 **What is a confined space**, has a total different saying to 1.4 **How to determine whether a space is a confined space**, also this Code of Practise was done/updated in Dec 2011, I would like to see the Codes reviewed more regularly, as in every 2-3 years as to keep up to date with working practise, also to have a last reviewed year to let every one know what year it was last reviewed.

Q4) I would like to see the Regulations and the Codes combine, as with some WHS codes it is to provide a practical guidance only, by joining these two together it would give the codes more power, save time on looking up on safety material, and most of the regulations is in the codes already. Companies must consult with their workers and HSR's, which it states in the codes but at the end of the day, it will be up to the company to decide if they choose to use the codes to their fullest as it is only a practical guidance.

Q5) As psychological issues are more common in the work place, and there is little to nothing in the Regulations or the Act about psychological health, I would like to see discrimination, violence to men and women, bullying and harassment be part of this risk as well.

Q6) Hazards in a work place are very hard to control, while you aim to get rid of one hazard, you might introduce many more hazards just to get rid of that one hazard, and then trying to work and convince management on which is the safer hazard to use, to reduce less injury to the workforce.

Q7) My company ordered 500 plant equipment that service the aircraft, this equipment where designed and manufactured overseas. These plants where a bad design and where made out of thin metal, and cheap to manufacture, if it wasn't for our HSR's continually pushing for this equipment to be made safer, they would be in use today. I would like to know, who tells these overseas companies about our national standards, and WHS laws, is it the company's management, who are looking to get a product as cheap as possible, and are not adhering to our national standards and putting safety of the workers at risk, I went on line to look into our national standards, and you have to buy a national standard, would companies let their HSR's or any one in the safety committee buy a national standard, to see that the product is of nation standard, I think not

Q8) As not all general public are aware of Health and safety hazards, and not all hazards occur inside a work place. For example, I see construction site fencing falling down, branches falling off trees because of wild weather, I would like to see the general public be made more aware of these outside hazards awareness through the media. (TV, newspapers and social media). Also, if a general public is entering a work premises, then they should have an escort with them as they would not be aware of the hazards in the work place.

Q9) I would like to see SLIDES, added to as a major hazard, in wet conditions or wet work areas, the risk becomes high due to the surfaces becoming wet. A smooth surface will slide over a wet smooth

surface, therefor having little to no control of the object. Lifting, I think there should be more about lifting under Chapter 4 Hazardous Work. Does Infectious substance/diseases come under Hazardous Chemicals.

Q10) A PCBU in a large company with so many separate Business Units, who is really in charge, there are managers on top of managers, so what manager would really be in control of the Business unit, would a business unit manager have any idea of what the risks or hazard there are in the work place they run? they usually leave it up to the managers below them to sort it out, there needs to be a clearer definition of who responsible on managing a business unit.

Q11) I work at [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] is the main PCBU in which other ground handling companies work there as well, I believe [REDACTED] have a duty of care to workers who don't have a meal room or a bad working environment because the other ground handling company wont pay for a room to lease off [REDACTED] because of high cost and there for it would impact on their profit margin.

Q12) What is reasonably practicable, there needs to be a clearer meaning of this, as management can take this one way and the workers can take this another way.

Q13) It is very unclear of who is an officer at a work place in the WHS act, as it just doesn't point to one person as an officer but to many persons, EG Leading Hand, Supervisor, HSR, Manager and so on.

Q16) How can a customer or a visitor take reasonable care for their own safety when they are not aware of the hazards or risks that are involved when they are at a workplace, they need to be escorted around the workplace by someone who has a sound knowledge of the hazards and risks of the workplace.

Q17) What is the meaning of a Duty holder, also I don't agree a worker can be an officer, as this could expose the worker to not having skills to make decisions that affect the whole or substantial part of the business of the corporation, as this can be exploited.

Q19) Consultation, subject matter experts, I would like to see these two words used more in the act and Regulations, CONSULTATION with workers is a must, section 47 of the WHS Act, where it says "so far as is reasonably practicable" is a good excuse for management not to consult with their workforce, as with a large company who have workers worldwide, or in different states, they say it is too hard to consult with everyone at the same time, consultation should be at the beginning of the Act, not start in Part 5, Division 2. SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS, who else knows how to do the job the best way, the workers as they are trained and have years of experience at what they do.