

Transport

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Health and safety alerts

Current Northern Territory and national Health and [Safety Alerts](#).

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National Licensing System

The Northern Territory has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with other jurisdictions agreeing to begin the implementation process for the National Licensing System (NLS) which is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2012.

The agreement was signed at the Council of Australian Governments on 30 April 2009 in recognition that Australia's overlapping and inconsistent regulations regarding licensing, impeded productivity growth.

The initial occupational areas covered by the NLS are:

- refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics
- building and building related occupations
- electrical
- land transport (passenger vehicle drivers and dangerous goods only)
- maritime
- plumbing and gasfitting, and
- property agents.

Draft legislation is currently being developed and is expected to be released for public comment in late 2009.

More information can be found on the [NLS](#) website.

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National review on chemical use and storage

NT WorkSafe is involved in a national project to improve the security aspects of the supply and use of industrial chemicals.

As the result of a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Australia's national arrangements for the management of security risks associated with chemicals was made on 2 October 2008. Amongst other things, the IGA outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States and Territories regarding the risk assessment process.

The initial priority is to conduct risk assessments on twelve explosive precursors, commencing with hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid. The draft risk assessments for hydrogen peroxide and nitric acid are due by the end of 2009.

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Changes to NT Workplace Health and Safety Legislation

The Northern Territory along with other jurisdictions is currently working with Safe Work Australia to harmonise occupation health and safety (OHS) legislation across Australia.

The Council of Australia Governments formally committed to the harmonisation of OHS legislation in July 2008, by signing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in OHS.

The agreement requires each state and territory to pass their own laws that mirror the model OHS laws and adopt them by December 2011.

The model OHS laws have been drafted and will soon be released in late September for public comment.

NT WorkSafe will hold a number of information sessions across the Territory to provide information on the changes to current OHS laws and the implementation. Information sessions will be held in the following regions.

Alice Springs

Thursday 1 October – 12.30pm to 1.30pm – Crowne Plaza
Wednesday 28 October – 5.30pm to 6.30pm – Diplomat Motel

Darwin

Thursday 8 October – 3.30pm to 4.30pm – Holiday Inn Esplanade

Katherine

Thursday 1 October – 1.00pm to 2.00pm – Knotts Crossing Resort
Thursday 22 October – 5.30pm to 6.30pm – Knotts Crossing Resort

Nhulunbuy

Tuesday 13 October – 12.30pm to 1.30pm – The Arnhem Club
– 3.30pm to 4.30pm – The Arnhem Club
– 5.30pm to 6.30pm – The Arnhem Club

Tennant Creek

Thursday 8 October – 5.00pm to 6.00pm – Blue Stone Motor Inn

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Formation of Sub Committees to Workplace Health and Safety Advisory Council (WHSAC)

The Northern Territory Workplace Health and Safety Advisory Council was formed on 31 December 2008. Under section 27 of the Workplace Health and Safety Act, the council has the power to form sub committees to assist the council to carry out its functions under the Act. A decision was made to form industry based sub committees.

The transport sub committee has been formed by the council. The sub committee is chaired by a member of the advisory council and comprises of representatives from the following organisations:

- Australia Trucking Association
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Seafood and Maritime Industry Training
- Airnorth Regional
- Maritime Union of Australia
- NT WorkSafe
- Transport Workers Union

The duties of sub committee are:

- provide advice to the council on implementation and application of the Act in particular industry sectors
- examine specific issues referred by the council, and
- provide a forum for information exchange and networking opportunities for key stakeholders to work with the Regulator on OHS issues in specific industry sectors.

For more information contact the WHSAC sub committee secretariat on 8999 5098.

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Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue

Driver fatigue is one of the main causes of crashes involving heavy vehicles. Under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act*, Transport Operators working in the Territory have a general duty of care to ensure, as far as reasonably practical, that workers and others are not exposed to risks to health or safety arising from the employer's business.

To demonstrate this requirement, transport operators need to have a fatigue management system in place which effectively manages the risks associated with driver fatigue.

The national driver fatigue legislation is consistent with current obligations under OHS laws and will assist operators in demonstrating that they have taken reasonable steps in managing driver fatigue.

Recently, a modified fatigue management system has been developed to address conditions specific to the transport of livestock in remote areas. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is currently investigating the feasibility of a trial of the system across Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland.

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Safe Work Australia Week

25 to 31 October 2009 is [Safe Work Australia](#) Week.

In 2008/09 there were over 3300 claims for workplace injuries and six work-related fatalities in the Northern Territory.

All Territorians, whether you're an employer or a worker, are encouraged to get involved and focus on health and safety in the workplace.

Workplace safety is everyone's business.

NT WorkSafe have created a Safe Work Australia Week navigation button on the Home Page of the website www.worksafe.nt.gov.au to keep you informed of activities during the campaign.

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Statistical data

A range of statistical data has been collated by Safe Work Australia and NT WorkSafe in order to identify poor performing industries and high risk activities to assist in developing targeted industry programs.

Data is also collected and reviewed by NT WorkSafe to improve programs that facilitate Territory workers being covered by equitable and practical workers compensation scheme allowing them to return to suitable work as soon as possible.

To access the data, follow the [Statistics](#) link on the NT WorkSafe website.

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