

Deployment of WHS Guidance on Vehicles as a Workplace

Shane Stockill^a, Mark Cocker^b, Lisa Foley^c, Christine Henderson^d, Mark Hulme^e, David Bobbermen^f, Martin Small^g

^aWorkplace Health and Safety Queensland, ^bWorkSafe Tasmania, ^cSafeWork NSW, ^dComcare, ^eSafeWork SA, ^fAustroads, ^gMartin Small Consulting

Abstract

A national work health and safety (WHS) guide on Vehicles as a Workplace was published work health and safety regulators and Austroads in March 2019. A national forum was run to help launch the guide and a number of other supporting activities have been agreed. This paper will report on this activity, early lessons learned by WHS regulators in rolling out the guide, and a simple evaluation amongst industry participants as they take the guide forward.

Background, Method, and Results

Following endorsement by the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities, a national work health and safety (WHS) guide on Vehicles as a Workplace was published by Australian WHS regulators and Austroads in March 2019. This is the first comprehensive WHS guidance to date on this topic.

Vehicle use in road traffic is the most significant contributor to work-related traumatic injury in Australia and New Zealand. The guide is for all firms, organisations and individuals who use vehicles on the road for work purposes. It addresses risk management whenever vehicles are used in road traffic for work purposes.

The WHS guide applies road traffic safety knowledge to the recognised aspects of WHS management, addressing:

- Safe as reasonably practicable
- Hierarchy of control
- Identification of hazards and risks

A national forum was run to help launch the guide and lay the platform for deployment of the guide by regulators, stakeholders, and industry. Follow-up activities planned are:

- Preparation of second tier guidance documents targeting specific activities of concern.
- Preparation of case studies and a simple example of how an industry association can use the national WHS guide to support its members.
- Technical support to regulators which have endorsed the guide for staff training and stakeholder awareness raising in relation to this issue.

This paper will report on this activity, and early lessons learned by WHS regulators in rolling out the guide. This will be supported by a simple evaluation amongst industry participants, focusing on their response to the guide, their confidence in taking the guide forward within different organizational settings, and the future support they may need.

References

Small, M, Holgate, J, and Bobbermen, D, 2018. Vehicles as workplace – a new framework for a critical road safety management issue. Extended Abstract, Australasian Road Safety Conference 2018, Sydney.