

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Road freight transport industry – What does the law say?

The law that covers health and safety at workplaces in Queensland is called the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*. The aim of this law is to stop anyone from being killed, injured or becoming ill because of a workplace or the work being done. A workplace can be any place that work is done, so it can include a work vehicle or a client's home.

The law says that everyone working or coming into a workplace has a legal responsibility to look after their own health and safety and the health and safety of others at the workplace:

- People who are conducting a business or undertaking including employers, self employed people and others must look after the health and safety of themselves, their workers and anyone else who is affected by their business (eg. clients and visitors)
- Workers mustn't deliberately put themselves or anyone else in danger and must obey any instructions that their employer gives them about health and safety.

You are legally required to do what the law says, if you don't you are breaking the law and may be charged with an offence.

To fulfil your legal responsibilities you need to consider all the hazards at your workplace and do something to stop people from being

hurt by them. In some cases there are regulations that say what you **must** do to manage the risks or codes of practice that say you **should** follow the guidance or manage the risk in another way that is at least as effective as the code of practice. In all cases you must do something to make sure that the people aren't in danger.

The *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008* and some of the following Workplace Health and Safety Codes of Practice may help with meeting the requirements of the law:

- Risk management
- Hazardous substances
- Manual tasks
- Plant
- Noise
- Prevention of workplace harassment
- First aid

Other legislation that may be needed to provide a safe workplace includes:

- Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act and Regulation 2001
- Electrical Safety Act and Regulation 2002.

For more information on general obligations and workplace health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit

www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

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Fact Sheet – Road Freight Transport Industry Series

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