



CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION

National Office:

Level 1, 210 High Street, Kew, Victoria 3101

Telephone: (03) 9851 9900 Facsimile: (03) 9851 9999

Web site: www.civilcontractors.com Email: ccfnat@civilcontractors.com

The Civil Contractors Federation Policy on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

The Civil Contractors Federation Policy on OHS is based on the following key principles:

- **Safety is non negotiable and is the responsibility of all participants at a workplace.**

A safe place to work and a safe way of doing work are the fundamental principles which underpin the CCF approach to Occupational Health and Safety.

In our view this approach is best implemented through:

- a focus on OHS at the business or enterprise level based on continuous improvement;
 - leadership from business owners and managers and a shared sense of responsibility by all those in the workplace;
 - systems and processes to support a safe way of doing things; and
 - Development and support at all levels of an organisation for a “workplace safety culture”.
- **National consistency – one country one framework not eight separate OHS regimes.**

The CCF strongly advocates for national uniformity and consistency of regulation. As our members operate across state boundaries, separate regulatory regimes and compliance obligations are a source of unnecessary regulatory burden, cost and inefficiencies.

We therefore support the harmonisation goals of the Federal and State Governments.

Whilst this is our in principle approach, we do not support an approach which would see the highest or most rigorous standards within a State Act become the template model. In line with our general policy position on regulation we should be aiming for “better regulation” not more regulation.

➤ **One framework with flexibility in implementation**

We also believe that legislation must be tailored to take account of the fact a number of employers are small and medium sized businesses that do not have the resources to implement extensive occupational health and safety systems.

Whilst we fully accept the principle that the law must apply to all – we seek flexibility in implementation to take account of the practical realities for small business. Additionally, any legislation must be capable of real on the ground implementation.

➤ **OHS must not be a de-facto tool for industrial grievances – the interaction between OHS and Industrial matters**

We believe that the focus of Occupational Health and Safety must always be on the core role of Occupational Health and Safety and powers such the Right of Entry must always be truly and appropriately aligned with these objectives.