



March 2010

E-Update

Medium-Sized Businesses – You are about to be inspected!

If you are a medium sized business, expect a visit for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) starting from April 2010. As WHSQ aims to reduce workplace related injuries by 40% and fatalities by 20%, they have created an initiative to educate businesses on health and safety and then inspect their premises to ensure it is being carried out, starting in March 2010.

Who will this affect?

EVERY medium-sized business in Queensland will be affected by this new initiative. You are considered 'medium-sized' if your declared wages to WorkCover Queensland during the 2008-2009 financial year was between \$1 million and \$10 million.

What should I do now?

This new initiative is to be conducted in two separate waves, with the first wave beginning in March 2010. Half of the targeted businesses will receive a letter advising them of the program shortly. If your business doesn't receive a letter in March, you will be in the second wave and will be notified later in the year. The letter will outline what you need to do and it will invite two of your staff to a free advisory session. When you receive the letter, register for the advisory session and use the tools and resources on the WHSQ website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au to ensure your business is ready for inspection. If you choose not to attend an advisory session, then your business can be inspected as early as April 2010.

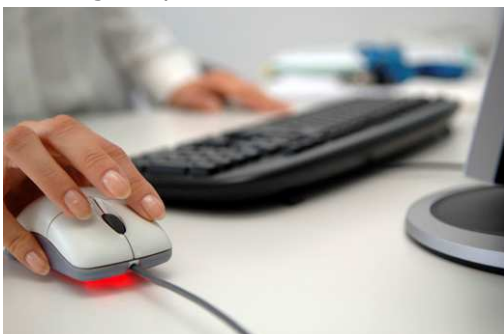
What is involved in the inspection?

The inspection will focus on assessing your business' health and safety systems and their effectiveness, as well as suggesting improvements for your business. However, the inspectors will also draw upon their enforcement options under WHSQ legislation to address any concerns identified. More information on the inspection, including audit checklists and safety tips can be found on the WHSQ website.

Practical Tips

- Visit the WHSQ website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au to ensure your business is ready for inspection;
- Complete a safety audit of your business;
- Attend the advisory session so you are aware of your requirements; and
- Obtain legal advice on any identified risks and assess non-compliance or where an inspector seeks to initiate any form of enforcement.

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For assistance with your Workplace Law needs contact our experienced Workplace Law advisors.

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