

Hello and Welcome...

This is USSA's first quarterly newsletter, designed to provide you with a summary of the latest health, safety and environmental (HSE) news.

Each quarter, USSA aims to deliver an accurate and informative newsletter covering relevant legislative changes and court case decisions which may affect you and your business.

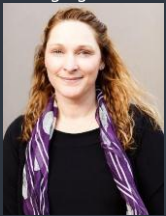
At USSA, we specialise in developing and implementing simple and sustainable HSE solutions. This includes providing clear and straightforward advice and guidance. Producing this newsletter is testimony to this.

Our Consultants are fully qualified and experienced professionals who have experience across a range of high risk industry sectors. This enables us to provide suitable and sufficient HSE advice and support to small, medium, and large businesses across a wide range of industries, including mining and construction.

The USSA team members are passionate and committed HSE professionals who are dedicated to achieving workplace HSE performance improvement.

We really believe in making a difference and hope this newsletter provides businesses, particularly smaller business with limited resources, with useful and accurate information.

Anita Slight
USSA Managing Director



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Legislation Update

Asbestos found in Vehicle Gaskets

WorkSafe have released a Safety Alert after new vehicles imported into Australia from China by Great Wall Motors Australia and Chery Automotive Australia were found to contain asbestos gaskets. It is also important to remember that many older vehicles (pre 2004) contain asbestos in brakes, clutch linings and gaskets.

What action should I take?

When replacing a gasket on a new imported vehicle, contact the local dealership to find out whether the gasket contains asbestos and how to safely handle it if it does. For Great Wall and Chery vehicles, check the model and part numbers on the ACCC's Product Recall website to see if the parts contain asbestos. According to WorkSafe you should assume that gaskets and brake and clutch linings do contain asbestos on all vehicles manufactured before 2004.

Harmonisation hits SA and Tasmania

South Australia passed the WHS Act on 1st November 2012 and became the 7th jurisdiction to adopt the harmonised WHS laws. The new laws will come into effect on 1st January 2013. This brings SA in line with Queensland, NSW, NT, ACT and the Commonwealth jurisdictions where the new laws have already been implemented. Tasmania will also be adopting the new laws on 1 January 2013.

Meanwhile, WA remains committed to the harmonisation process and intends to adopt the model WHS laws but with some amendments to the Act. The 2 month consultation period on the harmonisation proposals closed in October 2012, and was designed to collect comments on potential costs and benefits of the proposed WHS Regulations, as they apply specifically to WA workplaces. A summary report is now due to be submitted for State Government's consideration.

Other HSE News at a Glance

Department cracks down on ventilation safety

DMP is ramping up efforts to ensure operators protect the health of the State's 11,000 underground mine employees

New inspectors to boost Goldfields mines safety

Goldfields Mine gets 2 new Inspector posts

WA mines safety gets new director

DMP appoints new Mines Safety Director

WorkSafe Safety Alert issued after Concrete Soakwell lid fatality

Dogman killed when a precast concrete lid (800kg) fell on him as it was being lifted off a truck on construction site.

Free Health Check

Ultimate Safety Solutions Australia (USSA) is an international consultancy that specialises in developing and implementing simplistic and sustainable HSE solutions.

We are currently offering a **free 90 minute 'health' check to potential clients** to initially discuss your current HSE management system.

This can help you identify key hazards and levels of risk facing your organisation, prioritise your actions and resources.

Having a robust HSE management system has been shown to dramatically reduce the rate of accidents and can reduce your insurance premiums by up to 50%.

USSA is one of Australia's fastest growing safety consultancies and are proud to feature on the BRW's Fast Starters list.

We have a strong and reliable presence in the resource, construction, manufacturing and services sectors and with Consultants based in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, provide an efficient service to organisations across Australasia and Asia.

Ultimate Safety Solutions Australia can help...

Legal Compliance Audit

*Why should my business have one?
What are the benefits...*

USSA's HSE Consultants are qualified Auditors and have long been able to audit against both Australian and international standards. In response to client feedback, USSA have now developed an Audit tool to measure against basic legal compliance.

Legal compliance should not be considered simply in the paradigm of avoiding prosecution. It should be considered as a means of continuous improvement.

Knowing and managing your legislative duties, obligations and responsibilities is a key driver of safety and a mandatory requirement if you desire to achieve and maintain Certification against Australian or International OHS Standards.

Having a Legal Compliance Audit will assist you in managing your legislative duties, identify areas for improvement and enable your organisation to focus resources more efficiently.

A Legal Compliance Audit can be used to inform organisations of ways and means to ensure that they can conduct their operations effectively and efficiently, complimenting their technical expertise while protecting the welfare of stakeholders, whether they be employees, contractors, visitors or the public.

It is not always possible to have a dedicated resource to monitor legislative changes. USSA have fully qualified consultants with extensive HSE experience who can identify and contextualise legislative change to ensure immediate application for your business.

If you would like to book a legal compliance audit or would like to know more about the various audits we can conduct on your behalf, please feel free to contact us.

Latest Publications out now...

Recent publication releases from the Dept. of Mines & Petroleum include:

- [Info sheet on FAQ's on Mines Safety Levy Audit](#)
- [MSB No 100 Safe Use of Flammable Refrigerants](#)
- [Drill Rig Operation – Mine Safety Matters Pamphlet](#)

Need a short term HSE Consultant?

Many companies employ full time HSE staff while others do not employ any HSE personnel at all. Either way, when the need arises for additional competencies due to expansion, specific short term projects or for external investigations and audits, the gap can be filled by appointing a fully qualified USSA Consultant. There are many benefits of utilizing external consultants including:



- Consultants often have skills and abilities not available internally, bringing high level experience and new skills to your organisation, which can be passed on to your employees
- Our Consultants have worked in a wide range of industries and come with the support of a large team of experts and resources.
- Use them only for as long as you need them, enabling you to maintain your core of employees and add additional resources for special projects etc as required.
- A fresh set of eyes can provide objectivity and non-biased opinions on the project/work
- Our Consultants have the ability to recommend, institute and drive Change Management without being influenced by internal 'Resistance to Change' factors
- After adding in overheads and management costs, hiring a Consultant can often be cheaper as there are no long term financial commitments or benefits to be paid.
- Outsourcing technical needs can free management staff to concentrate on core business

To this end, USSA has the capability to offer the services of experienced HSE Consultants, Risk Managers, Change Agents and Lead Auditors with a background in a vast array of industries, businesses and services who are all qualified and certified in their fields. This can be provided on a short term or part-time basis as required.

If you would like to find out more and discuss how we can meet your requirements, please contact USSA, at cservice@ussa.com.au or telephone 08 6311 7043

2013 Worksafe Focus Areas



[WorkSafe](#) has just released the list of industries it will be focusing on in 2012/13, as follows:

Agriculture and Commercial Fishing

Department of Agriculture & Food and Department of Fisheries.

Compliance Campaign for Indigenous Communities

Proactive inspections of the **infrastructure maintenance** and **service provisions** provided to indigenous communities throughout the **Kimberley** region.

Construction Industry

Project work will focus on **Multi Storey Construction Sites** (residential and commercial), **Metropolitan Enforcement** where there are a large number of construction sites in close proximity and **Regional Enforcement Drives** in the **Great Southern** and **Mid-West** regions.

Health Hazards

WorkSafe are planning to focus investigations in the **Health, Education and Community** services sectors (**TAFEs, universities and hospitals**) and on **Plastics Manufacturers** in the **Midwest**. WorkSafe will run a project investigating the management systems used in **larger organisations** to manage **stress and bullying in the workplace**. A project will also be undertaken looking at **Communicable diseases** investigations of **high risk occupations** across all industry sectors, with an emphasis on non-English speaking employees.

Manufacturing Industry

Due to high injury rates, WorkSafe will focus on investigating '**Wooden Structural Fitting & Component**', '**Other Wood Product**' manufacturing, '**Motor Vehicle Body & Trailer**', '**Structural Steel Fabricating**' and '**Other Fabricated Metal Product**' manufacturing.

Plant Safety

A project focused on the safe operation, maintenance and inspection of boilers at laundry operators in the metro and regional areas.

Other Industries

Proactive investigations are planned for **Restaurants, Hardware Building & Garden Suppliers Retailing, Freight Forwarding, Independent Supermarkets, Fast Food Outlets, Heavy Machinery & Scaffolding Hire, Waste Collection, Nature Reserves & Conservation Parks, Corrective Centres.**

If your business is on this list and you need some assistance in ensuring you have everything in place, or would like to take advantage of the free 90min health check, please contact USSA.