

INFORMATION SHEET

CHANGES TO LICENSING FOR HIGH RISK WORK



DO YOU CARRY OUT SCAFFOLDING, DOGGING OR RIGGING WORK?

DO YOU OPERATE A FORKLIFT, CRANE, HOIST, ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS OR PRESSURE EQUIPMENT?

DO YOU EMPLOY WORKERS WHO DO THIS WORK OR OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you must know about the following changes to the licensing of high risk work.

In early 2010 (adoption date subject to Government approval), South Australia will introduce a new National Standard for high risk work.

The National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work 2006 (the new National Standard) is being introduced across all Australian States and Territories and will soon become law in South Australia.

The new National Standard introduces a number of changes that aim to make the training, assessment and licensing of high risk work consistent across Australia. These changes aim to make workplaces where high risk work is performed safer.

What are the changes and how will they make high risk work safer?

New licences

There will be a new type of licence for people who perform high risk work - a small plastic card with photo identification, similar to a driver's licence. This will be consistent across Australia. The photo identification aims to reduce the incidence of fraudulent use of licences by people who are not qualified to perform high risk work.

Unlike the present Certificate of Competency, this new High Risk Work Licence will require renewal every five years. The licence holder will need to provide evidence that they have maintained their skills and are still competent to perform high risk work. This will provide greater confidence for people who work with a licence holder (or who employ a licence holder) that operators of this type of equipment have maintained their skills and can still safely perform the high risk work that their licence qualifies them to do.

A person must be aged 18 years or older to obtain the new High Risk Work Licence, which will be valid across all Australian States and Territories.

People who have an existing South Australian Certificate of Competency or an old style 'ticket'* to perform other high risk work will also need to convert to the new High Risk Work Licence. These people will be provided with sufficient time to convert to the new licence and can continue using their existing qualifications for now.

New classes of high risk work

With the implementation of the new National Standard, the operation of forklifts and order picking forklifts will be defined as high risk work. Therefore, those who currently have a ticket to operate a forklift will need to apply for the new High Risk Work Licence if they wish to remain qualified to operate this equipment. Forklift operators will then have a nationally recognised licence that shows they are competent in the safe operation of this equipment.

People who currently hold forklift tickets will be provided with sufficient time to convert to the new licence and can continue using their existing qualifications for now.

The new National Standard also defines a new class of high risk work - the operation of a Self Erecting Tower Crane.

Changes for Registered Assessors

The most important changes for Registered Assessors are that they will need to work for, or be affiliated with, a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). At the moment some Assessors work with RTOs and some work independently. RTOs and Assessors will be required to provide training and assessment that is consistent with standards set for the whole of Australia.

When will the changes happen?

Most Australian States have now either partly, or fully, implemented the new National Standard. South Australia will introduce this as law and begin issuing the new High Risk Work Licences in early 2010.

Be assured that there will be plenty of time to change over to the new licensing system. The new National Standard provides a transition period of up to five years, depending on the issue date of a person's existing Certificate of Competency or 'ticket'*.

The table below outlines the transitional arrangements for old style tickets and Certificates of Competency.

Date of issue of certificate or date of most recent endorsement on the certificate	Certificate conversion period
Pre-3 April 1995	Within 12 months of the adoption date
Between 4 April 1995 – 31 December 1998	Within the 2 nd year following the adoption date
Between 1 January 1999 – 31 December 2001	Within the 3 rd year following the adoption date
Between 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2004	Within the 4 th year following the adoption date
Between 1 January 2005 – adoption date (early 2010)	Within the 5 th year following the adoption date

Who will this affect?

In South Australia, the changes to licensing introduced in the new National Standard will affect:

- all people who currently hold a Certificate of Competency and wish to continue performing the work that their Certificate authorises them to do
- all people who hold an old style (pre-3 April 1995) ticket to perform high risk work and who wish to continue to be authorised to do this work
- all people who hold a Notice of Satisfactory Assessment or ticket to operate a forklift truck or order picking forklift truck
- all people who have not held a certificate previously and intend to apply for a licence to perform high risk work.

For a full list of the licence classes affected, please see the Schedule (page 22) in:

[National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work.](#)

What action do I need to take to get the new licence?

At this stage, you do not need to take any action. SafeWork SA is providing advance notice of the future changes and will provide more detailed information prior to the commencement of the new system in South Australia.

In the meantime, existing requirements remain. People who are currently qualified can continue using existing Certificates of Competency and tickets. In addition, until the adoption date (early 2010) people can continue to be trained and assessed for a prescribed occupation and be issued with a Certificate of Competency.

* 'Ticket' is a colloquial term used in industry to refer to a qualification for high risk work and is frequently used to describe a qualification to operate a forklift. This includes a Notice of Satisfactory Assessment.