

## New Obligations on Designers of Structure from 1 July 2007

The Department of Industrial Relations have announced that new obligations imposed on Designers that are contained in section 30B of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 (Qld)* ("the Act") will be effective from 1 July 2007.

### NEW OBLIGATIONS

The new obligations under the Act impose criminal sanctions upon "Designers" who fail to ensure:

- . That the design of the structure does not affect the workplace health and safety of persons during the construction of the structure; and
- . That once constructed, the structure is being used for the purpose for which it was designed.

The term Designer encompasses all design practitioners who contribute to or have overall responsibility for any part of the design. This includes engineers, architects, surveyors, interior designers, temporary works engineers and anyone who specifies or alters a design.

To comply with these obligations, the designer must:

- . Undertake a risk assessment to identify any risks to persons involved in the various aspects of the construction work and any persons who might be in the vicinity of the work.
- . Design the structure having regard to these risks and incorporate into the design measures to control the risk that result in either the elimination of the hazard, or makes it easier for construction teams to manage the risks.
- . Provide a report to the client outlining the health and safety aspects of the design before construction work starts.

### FURTHER GUIDELINES

The Department of Industrial Relations is working towards settling benchmarks and standards that will provide guidance to people affected by these laws. The guidelines are due to be released on 1 July 2007.

#### HOW WILL THESE CHANGES AFFECT YOU?

This amendment means that designers will have to ensure that all persons involved in the construction of a structure are not exposed to risks to their health and safety that arise from the design. A risk assessment must be undertaken and a report provided to the client outlining any risks associated with the design prior to construction work commencing.

Further guidelines will be available from 1 July 2007.



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