

MANAGING STRANGULATION HAZARDS ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – BULLETIN.

Managing strangulation hazards on play equipment. Strangulation can cause serious injury, and in some cases death. There have been incidents where a young child has become entangled in a rope or cord while playing on play equipment.

Risks

Any situation where a child has access to ropes or cords is hazardous. Ropes or cords that can be caught around the neck carry the risk of strangulation. This risk is increased when children are climbing or sliding at height, as they can become entangled in the rope or cord and accidental hanging may occur. Children will often use toys and play equipment in inventive ways.

This may include taking a rope or cord (or toys that include a rope or cord) onto elevated play equipment such as a slide or platform. Children may also move the position of ropes that are part of the elevated play equipment. In both situations, there is a risk that the rope or cord may become caught around the child's neck resulting in the risk of strangulation.



Action required

Ensure all play equipment complies with a recognised Australian or New Zealand standard. If it does not meet this standard, engage a competent person to verify that it is safe for use.

The Person Conducting the Business or Undertaking (PCBU) should have a system in place to frequently inspect all play equipment for strangulation hazards. Pay attention to any ropes, cords or snagging points that form part of the play equipment.

PCBUs should also regularly re-assess existing hazards and identify any potential risks.

PCBUs should prevent children from taking ropes or cords (or toys that include a rope or cord) onto elevated play equipment where reasonably practicable.

Children should be appropriately supervised while using play equipment. PCBUs can undertake a risk assessment and refer to guidance to ensure this. Appropriate supervision may include keeping children within sight at all times.

Summit	Manager	Name

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News & views from
 Summit Systems
 Special Edition 2017

MAJOR CHANGES TO HEALTH AND SAFETY COMING

At end of May 2017 we were informed that there would be major changes within Worksafe NZ or MBIE to bring in a new regime for self audit of workplaces in NZ. The scheme would be 10 steps or something similar. The Worksafe team will select or appoint suitable people to be **independent auditors**. It is believed they will have no official powers except to contact a local inspector. There will be no money or rewards for the work. Only fees levied.

We do not yet know of the criteria but we are not confident that they will be people with audit qualifications related to world standards. In reflection, we can recall that some 20 years ago we had what was called **THREE STEPS**, then we had the **SIX POINT PLAN**, and then we had **NZS 4801 8 STEPS**, now we have **10 STEPS**.

Important message from Nicole Rosie, CEO of Worksafe NZ to Safeguard Conference 2017.
<http://www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe/news/pdf-and-documents-library/nicole-rosie-safeguard-speech-may-2017.pdf>

A useful starter kit for those who wish to spend 200 hours writing documents is found at -
<http://www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe/toolshed/writing-health-and-safety-documents-for-your-workplace/guide-to-writing-health-and-safety-documents.pdf>

<http://www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe/about/what-we-do/the-safety-star-rating-scheme>
<http://www.worksafe.govt.nz/worksafe/about/what-we-do/the-safety-star-rating-scheme/documents-and-images/worksafe-assessor-competency-specification.pdf>

The above links should be researched for those interested in help from our team regarding systems development that will meet legal requirements.

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS? SEE PAGE TWO

In this edition, we plan to discuss the actual needs of clients so that they can be reasonably certain of the quality of their Health & Safety Act compliance. For the record, we think that there are hundreds of suppliers that provide a basic format and nearly all sites are duped into thinking that this is all that they need.

So the first question is, will the preparation of a basic set of information meet all legal requirements. We can assure you that over the last 20 years we have three letters from different Ministers of Labour to advise that the preparation of three or six or eight steps would not meet all legal requirements. We will now get a letter from the current Minister to confirm that the 10 steps does not meet all of the legal requirements. To find out what is required, one must get a copy of AS/NZS ISO 45001 2016. In the USA there are 200 items indicated as ideal to satisfy the OSHA 200 requirements.

2.

PROPER SYSTEM – BOOK ONE - MAKING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

The HS plan should include the following parts

- a) The various policies that are required for Health and Safety laws and this section should be at least 30 pages in length to suffice.
- b) The safety rules to satisfy the policies and this section could be 20 to 80 pages.
- c) The hazard sets to identify hazards and provide satisfactory controls 10-30 pages.
- d) There will be a section called Job Task Analysis or Safe Operating Procedures and this will be for all machinery and complex tasks. This is usually around 20 pages.
- e) There will be a set of forms that are suitable for system operation – 30-50 pages.
- f) There will be a set of audit logs for site audit to be completed regularly 6-12 pages.
- g) There will also be a set of agreements for the control of other parties 10-20 pages.

NB: items a) to g) above are included with all high quality HS systems from SSL.

PROPER SYSTEM – BOOK TWO – TRAINING ALL STAFF

There are at least types of different training for operation of a safe workplace.

- h) There should be an Injury Prevention motivational course on bi-annual basis all staff.
- i) There should be 10 steps for workers for those who are somewhat challenged.
- j) Safety Rep and Safety Officer course for hazardous and all medium / large sites.
- k) Safety Committee course for all safety committees – copy from our office.
- l) Fire Warden course for Wardens and Deputies required by regulations.
- m) Internal auditor course now required for ISO 45001 2016. Contact SSL.
- n) Videos and slide shows available from our office (no charge) for 100 types of work.
- o) Training in how to do the job – Trade Association, ITO, qualified (competent) person.
- p) CD Rom with copy of new HSAW Act plus Regulations and video from Worksafe.

NB: items h) and i), plus k), n) and p) are free for Clients on service agreement.

PROPER SYSTEM – BOOK THREE – AUDITS ARE IMPORTANT

There are several audits available from SSL.

- q) There is a blue form called Safety Review - 20 questions, from our office.
- r) There is a blue form called Barometer - 20 questions, from our office.
- s) There is a blue form called Thermometer - 20 questions, from our office.
- t) There is a self audit called Multimeter 6 pages, from our office.
- u) There is an annual external audit for sites by local Consultant.
- v) The internal site audit format is mentioned above under f).

NB: items q) and r) plus s) and t) are free for Clients on service agreement.

PROPER SYSTEM – BOOK FOUR – PERFORMANCE CHECKS

There are several checking processes that are important to have evidence of:

- w) Both internal and external analysis of minor harms to detect trends or risks.
- x) Training needs analysis to be completed annually by all sites - issued to all staff.
- y) Annual Calendar review by site management and by external auditor Consultant.
- z) ACC experience rating analysis to focus on major bonuses from ACC.
- aa) Consider independent contractor and key performance role for top staff.

NB: items w) and x) and y) are free for Clients on service agreement.

3.

We often assist the managers and workers as well as the client

A little known fact is that Summit Systems Ltd has the ability and resources to assist the Client with serious harms or severe accidents that could lead to prosecutions against the Client and or the Manager/s and or Worker/s.

One such case happened at the site where the old bridge over the railway line was to be removed. A worker had knocked down a 11 Kva line and the Dept of Labour – then called OSH as it is in most developed countries – was looking to prosecute.

Firstly, it was necessary to ensure that the company had a sufficient site specific plan for the job and that it was issued to all staff on site and they were operating daily toolbox meetings and hazard analysis in a suitable manner.

Secondly, it was necessary to have discussions with the site Manager and to make sure that he had notified the local electricity supply company and had followed the permit and had notified the worker and had made entries in his diary and forms had been completed.

Thirdly, it was necessary to have discussions with the worker from the actual site at the bridge deck below the power lines. To establish abnormal line slackness or drooping it was important to find out about the time of day and temperature. The interview was at 1/30pm the day after the line break. We asked the worker "was it a very hot day" he replied "I cannot remember". We then asked "was it like today?" He replied yes it was like today. We told him that he must advise the inspector that it was a very hot day and that the line was drooping quite a bit. Then we asked him if it was very windy and he said "I am not sure". We then asked, was it like today?" He replied in the affirmative and we pointed out that the nearby trees were waving from side to side in the wind and that he must tell the inspector that the lines were waving around like the nearby trees.

The next thing was more difficult and we had to prove lack of vision. We asked the worker if he could see the lines clearly from his cab and did he have sun glasses on when he was swinging his digger into the sun. He replied in the affirmative. We then asked him how many suns there were at the time and he said "just one of course". We then asked him if he could see the major reflection from the nearby silo at 10 o'clock and he stated "yes". We then asked him if he could see the severe reflection from the large windows of the nearby house at 2 o'clock. He replied saying "yes". We then told him that he must advise the inspector that "in spite of wearing sun glasses it was not possible to avoid direct sun from three angles as he was turning the digger".

