

4.

### Gearing Up for Construction Season



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**HARD HATS** Warmer weather signals the beginning of construction season. For the construction industry, it's time to finish preparations for the busy time of the year. Workers need training. Signs that identify hazardous areas and specify required personal protective equipment (PPE) need to be ready. And before work begins PPE needs to be selected and inspected for proper fit and any signs of wear and tear. Here's a head-to-toe review of construction PPE.

**EYEWEAR** Safety glasses should be worn whenever potential hazards to eyes may be present. Only eyewear clearly marked with ANSI Z87.1 or ANSI Z87.1+ (high impact) should be worn. Glasses or other protective eyewear should fit snugly enough to not slip while performing normal work activities and should allow air circulation between eyes and lens. Prescription safety glasses are available, but when workers who need them don't have them, they must wear safety glasses over their regular prescription glasses. Scratches and pits impair vision and diminish impact integrity, so inspect lenses before using any safety eyewear, and replace the eyewear immediately if scratches or pits are found.

**GLOVES** Gloves are designed and made with materials to defend against specific hazards—cuts, chemicals, electrical shocks and persistent vibration—but no glove can provide the intended protection if it's not intact. Tears, punctures, and stiffness not only reduce the effectiveness of protection, they increase dangers by creating snag points. Any glove with visible signs of wear should be discarded and replaced immediately.

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## SUMMIT SYSTEMS 2008 LTD

*Business Qualifications, Accreditation & Compliance Specialists*



## News & views from Summit Spring 2008



### North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) have joined forces to spread the word during the week of May 4 to 10 on the benefits of safety to businesses.

The word is that workplace safety and health programs pay for themselves by reducing the extent, severity and consequences of work-related injury and illness. North American businesses spend \$171 billion a year on workers compensation, retraining, absenteeism and costs related to faulty products. That money comes straight out of profits and can amount to as much as 5 percent of a company's total costs. Workplaces with established safety and health management have generally reduced these costs by at least 20 and as much as 40 percent.

In Australia, the Government requires that 3% of the annual budget for every business be spent on professional training of staff. Many businesses do not agree with the requirement and end up paying a surcharge on their tax of 6% as the penalty for non compliance.

Some NZ business owners are the same, often they are struggling to survive but will someday believe that investing in staff training is an essential ingredient for success.

There will always be those who think that they can succeed with binder twine, barbed wire, bravado and inventiveness.



2.

**EVEN MORE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN NEW ZEALAND**  
**SUMMIT SYSTEMS 2008 LTD WE DO WHAT WE SAY – FANCY THAT!**

Summit is currently preparing up to 30 proposals for registration as preferred supplier with Govt Departments and Corporates around NZ. For months and years we have advised clients to gain registration with large organisations and to issue their company profile, certificates and supporting documentation to gain preferred supplier status.

We again advise all clients to obtain up to date certificates for TQS1, OHSIP and HR and to issue their certificates and company profile to large organisations. It should be noted that in the event that if you do not at first succeed, try try again. It may take 2-3 months to get to preferred supplier status. We are helping many new clients gain registration and also advise them to get registered with GETS. This is a Government Electronic Tendering Site and you need to get registered as soon as you can so that you get all of the latest tenders. We urge you to do this now.

**DEPARTMENTS SPENDING UP LARGE**

Incidentally, it appears that the NZ Govt is extremely worried about the current situation. For every day in April it is believed that major tenders were issued by Govt Departments perhaps without any budget approval. This is the first time in 50 years that this has happened. Normally there is a hiatus or quiet period in April as Departments wait for budget approvals. This year was different. The message apparently was spend now, as fast as you can.



In our opinion, this is a clear signal that things are going to get quite serious in coming months. Those who keep their heads and their balance should win 30% more business in the next year.

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TRIAL SUCCESSFUL**

We are delighted to report that an ACC trial has been successful. Russell Kerr of Northland was granted \$1700 plus GST for the completion of level 3 Workplace Safety National Certificate and he is believed to have been granted further funding from ACC for the level 4 Safety Coordinator ticket. Already, he has gained work with Affco and Summit Systems and is proving that it is possible for an accident victim to retrain as a Safety Manager to once again contribute to the workforce in a positive and meaningful manner. We believe that this model will be the forerunner of many more. We will be approaching

On Track and other large employers to help them with accident victims that would like to make a future career in the field of Occupational Safety.

3.

**SALE OF THE CENTURY - QUALITY WILL COUNT – IT ALWAYS DOES**

We are now entering the zone of huge opportunity for quality assured businesses in NZ. Our Auckland Manager reports that many businesses are failing and that there could be a 30% drop out in some sectors. This will create a windfall for those that are geared up to fill the vacuum.



**CONTINUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

A most important focus is continual quality improvement or CQI. This should not just be a philosophy, it should be the hallmark of every good business that intends to succeed in challenging times. Clients should review their systems and procedures to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Clients are urged to gain renewal certificates for all of their systems and to lodge them with authorities at the frequency of every two years which meets the international standards.

We suggest that you get your certificates updated as soon as you can so that you continue to qualify for preferred supplier status.

**COST BENEFIT IS OUR FOCUS AND GOAL**

Our goal always has been to deliver results and cost benefit. In other words, to make sure that all clients gain a financial advantage out of their compliance and quality assurance experience with us.

They need to. They deserve respect and must be regarded as enterprises that are indeed quality assured. This means that we will always strive for satisfaction in the face of adversity, complaints, plain ignorance and lack of knowledge.



**REGIONAL DIRECTORS BEING APPOINTED**

We are pleased to advise that regional directors are being appointed to ensure that we have a continuing focus on quality assurance and performance in the regions of New

Zealand. We consider that this will have a major effect on the delivery of systems and services in the regions as our wish is to have continual quality improvement (CQI).