

Welcome to Spring

Since our last newsletter, much has happened in the warehousing and distribution industry. There are new pallet racking standards to comply with and issues relating to nominal hours in forklift training and assessment. Queensland has the highest forklift licence application fees in Australia compared to other states. Why? Many people have recently found out their forklift licence has been out of date for a number of years and now have to retrain. Better check your staffs forklift licences.

Hope you enjoy our newsletter.



Fire Warden Courses—First Response

AIMM is in the final stages of completing course materials and resources to deliver fire warden training to the national standards and the use of fire extinguishers as part of the first response process. These courses can be delivered in the workplace or at our training facility at Richlands. Participants of the course will be required to use fire blankets to extinguish an active fire. Our schedule for these courses is currently being developed and will be published on our website shortly. Discounts provided for large groups.



National Forklift Championships - Brisbane

If your forklift operators would benefit from having their knowledge and skills tested as part of this competition, download a registration form from the Australian Warehousing Association.
www.auswa.asn.au

In previous years, the female contestants kept the males on their toes while manoeuvring through the competition requirements. The focus of the competition is on safe operation while complying with national standards.



The prize money for the top male and female is \$750 each with a silver trophy engraved for the 2014 competition. To date, there is a strong possibility that there will be competitors from Frontera, New Zealand. They believe that Aussies can't win at Rugby so they will gladly take home the cup to NZ.



If your organisation wants to participate or you have some well-experienced operators call the Australian Warehousing Association on 07-3375-4114.

Don't Get a Fine



\$1250.00

WHS Inspectors are regularly visiting workplaces to see that plant operators have a current license. The current license must have a photo and expiry date. The fine for the individual worker if they do not have a current forklift license and are operating a forklift in a workplace is \$1250.00.

www.aimmtraining.com.au

Falls

Workers aged 45 years and over make up 70% of those who died following a fall from height. The biggest percentage were with workers aged 65 years and over. Half of the falls that resulted in a fatality involved distances of three metres or less.



Accidents

During the last 12 months in Qld there have been 600 accidents involving forklifts. As you are aware forklift operation has been classified as 'high risk' work.(HRW)

Of the 600 accidents 38 were considered serious and one fatality occurred within the same time frame.

Under current legislation a PCBU/employer has a duty of care responsibility to ensure that forklift operators are competent. To ensure that this occurs, have your operators either complete a refresher training program or a verification of competency (VOC) process and keep records of such training.



Confusion on Gas Compliance Plates

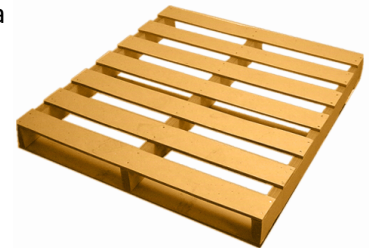
Under Qld legislation forklifts operating on LPG need to have a compliance plate providing the details of the licenced operator who installed the equipment and the date of installation. There are a number of forklift mechanics who believe that they have to change the dates on the compliance plate every time the forklift is serviced.



AIMM has talked with the Gas Compliance Inspector who has confirmed that the plate does not have a expiry date and only needs to be replaced when the total gas installation is replaced or undergoes a major repair. Perhaps your organisation may be charged for this work which is not required. Contact us if you want the Australian Standards and the details of the Qld Gas Inspector.

New Standard for Pallet Racking

Australian Standard 4084-2012 Steel Storage Racking has now been released and put forward new conditions for the safe use of pallet racking. For a number of years now, pallet racking has been installed into Australia from a number of Asian countries. Some suppliers do meet the Australian Standard while others do not.



To ensure compliance under Workplace Health and Safety legislation, the PCBU should ensure that racks are free of risk to workers. Ask yourself these questions as part of an internal audit:

- Are beams overloaded
- Are any beam welds damaged
- Are safety clips missing
- Has a beam 'popped' out of an upright
- Are uprights anchored to hard surfaces
- Are safe working load signs in place
- Is the rack vertical

There are companies who provide consultancy services testing the condition and safety of racking in the workplace. Some of these companies do it as part of a selling program while others do it as part of customer service.

Further information is available on Government websites throughout Australia.

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