



Welcome to Autumn

We receive a number of calls from companies who are told that they are no longer allowed to use a safety cage with a forklift. Safety cages should be built to AS2359 standards and have a plate confirming their safe working load. Check your cage.

The drop to below 76 cents against the US dollar will see an increase in exports and reduction in imports if this trend continues. This will impact on stock on hand levels in warehouses.

Mobile phone usage is a growing problem for some companies while it's a great tool to use for others. See our article on the next page.

The world's largest exhibition group has launched an Australian exhibition and conference in Sydney on 5-7 May at Homebush NSW. They have excellent speakers representing global companies Visit www.cemat.com.au to register or attend.

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How to check Date of Manufacture (DOM) on a Gas Bottle

Do your workers know their "Duty of Care" responsibility to check the Date of Manufacture (DOM), of the gas bottle mounted on the forklift?

As part of competency in the operation of a gas powered forklift, the gas bottle must be within its 10 year compliance timeframe.

Step 1: Where is the DOM located?

The Date of Manufacture is mostly located on the collar, or neck, of the bottle. The first number is the month, and the second number is the year. The numbers are generally separated by an arrowhead. See graphic

Step 2: The date

The date confirms the bottle's Date of Manufacture. It is compliant for 10 years from this date subject to any external damage it may receive over time

Step 3: If not Compliant

If the gas bottle is outside its 10 year compliance timeframe, it must be removed from service immediately and tagged out of service.

As part of a pre-operational check on a forklift each day the forklift operator must check the security of the gas bottle on the forklift, the hose connection and hoses. If gas can be smelt by the operator, then there is a gas leak and the bottle should be checked or tagged out.



Brisbane Safety Show 22 - 23 April 2015

Come and see us at the Brisbane Safety Show and meet our trainers and assessors and administration staff. Look for our display at stand 5.



Do you need First Aid or CPR training? Call us to discuss.



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Mobile Phones & the Workplace

Is your workplace constantly being disturbed by the sound of mobile phones ringing and the beeping of SMSs being received? Can your workplace ban mobile phone usage in the workplace?

The way your workers use their mobile phones in the workplace could also expose the organisation to a number of legal risks, such as discrimination claims, sexual harassment, phone bullying claims and workplace safety issues. The loss of productive worktime is a further issue.



Some large warehouses have a policy that all mobile phones must be stored in the locker during work hours except for lunch breaks when they can be retrieved from the locker.

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission recently endorsed a policy banning the use of mobiles while employees are working. The case in question involved a worker driving a forklift while speaking on a mobile phone.

The Commission held that the policy became a lawful instruction of the company and warned that an employee who disobeyed such a lawful instruction may be subject to disciplinary procedures by the company. Have a look around your workplace and see if you are providing a safe workplace with forklift operators in particular.

As most mobile phones can take a picture or short video and then upload it to social media, what are the potential consequences of an unauthorised picture taken in the workplace by a worker?

Where workers are required to have a company-supplied mobile phone as part of customer inquiries and service, guidelines should be provided in its use. Should they stop walking and stand still? What if they are servicing a customer and the phone continues to ring, what is the protocol to follow, customer or phone?

The concentration required to compose a text message or answer a call reduces the person's ability to focus on workplace conditions.

As the health impact on a worker constantly using a mobile phone is not totally clear, a policy would help. A workers' compensation claim could be costly in the near future.

Is your LPG Gas Price too High?



Over the last 6 months, the price of crude oil has dropped from US\$150 a barrel to around US\$50. It is predicted that the price will be even lower to US\$45 within a month.

Have you seen a price reduction in your LPG gas in the last 3 months?

Most companies buying their gas are on a 1 to 2 year contract without a rise or fall clause to reflect world markets. This allows gas suppliers a windfall profit for many months. It is a pity that Australia and in particular Queensland is exporting natural gas from Gladstone to world markets before considering the needs of Australian businesses.

Petrol and diesel prices have fallen in recent months with unleaded around \$1.18 per litre at Christmas and \$1.23 after Easter. The conflict in the Middle East could reduce crude oil prices further. Supply does not seem to be an issue. America is now 80% oil self-sufficient, compared to 2 years ago when 60% of their needs were imported.

Perhaps it is time to talk about prices with your supplier of LPG?

Date Claimer - Forklift Championship Update

Have you or your company registered for the forklift competition?



Last year was well supported by multiple companies and participants. Regional heats are confirmed for Victoria, ACT and Western Australia. Sponsorship is near finalisation.

The 2015 championship has been rescheduled to the 23rd October. This year will see a change from awarding 1 male and 1 female champion, to 1 champion (male or female), 2nd place and 3rd place. There is still a prize for winning the novelty event.

The Australian Warehousing Association is the host for this event and can be contacted on 07 33754114 or email admin@auswa.asn.au.