

NSW Worker Compensation has changed 30/6

This update provided by Workcover

The laws regarding workers compensation are about to be simplified to assist small business.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

From 30 June 2008, employers who expect to pay \$7,500 or less in annual wages will no longer need to hold a workers compensation insurance policy. ***This includes householders and residential strata schemes that employ domestic staff and pay \$7,500 or less in annual wages.*** However, a workers compensation insurance policy will still be required if an employer engages an apprentice or trainee or is a member of a group for workers compensation purposes.

HOW WILL THE CHANGE AFFECT YOU?

If you expect to pay \$7,500 or less in wages over the next financial year, you will not require a workers compensation insurance policy from 30 June 2008 (unless you engage an apprentice or trainee).

If at any time in the future you expect to pay more than \$7,500 in wages for the financial year, or you engage an apprentice or trainee, contact EMI or one of the WorkCover's Scheme agents immediately as you will then require a workers compensation insurance policy. Details of WorkCover's Scheme agents can be found on the WorkCover website or by calling WorkCover on 13 10 50.

Penalties may apply in the event that you fail to take out a policy when your wages exceed \$7,500 per annum.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM?

If you are an employer who no longer needs a workers compensation policy from 30 June 2008, your workers will still be covered.

If one of your workers makes a claim for compensation, you will need to contact WorkCover on 13 10 50 to report the claim. WorkCover will allocate a Scheme agent to manage the claim. An administrative fee, currently \$175, will be payable for any claim.

Incidents involving injury or illness to workers should be reported to WorkCover within 48 hours.

For **serious incidents** involving a fatality or a serious injury or illness (refer to clause 344 of the OHS Regulation 2001):

- Phone WorkCover **immediately** on **13 10 50** as an urgent investigation may be needed.

RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Workers compensation record keeping requirements will also be simplified. The period that wages records must be kept will be reduced from seven to five years.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions about how these changes will affect your current or future policy requirements please contact Employers Mutual Indemnity (EMI). Further information is also available on the WorkCover website at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.