

CHANGES TO THE LICENSING OF HIGH RISK WORK

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DO YOU OR YOUR WORKERS CARRY OUT SCAFFOLDING, RIGGING OR DOGGING WORK?

DO YOU OR YOUR WORKERS OPERATE A FORKLIFT, CRANE, HOIST, ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM OR PRESSURE EQUIPMENT?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, you should be aware of changes to the licensing of high risk work.

New arrangements for a national licensing system for high risk work will take effect in South Australia from 1 September 2010.

The new licensing system builds upon existing requirements for people who operate items of plant such as a forklift, crane, hoist, elevating work platform or pressure equipment as well as those people who perform scaffolding, dogging or rigging work. It will provide for a nationally recognised licence valid across Australia (no matter where in Australia it is issued), and the transition of all existing qualifications in certain classes of this type of work over a five-year period.

These changes will make the training, assessment and licensing of high risk work nationally consistent, and are aimed at making those workplaces where high risk work is performed safer.

New licences

People who have a current South Australian Certificate of Competency or old style ticket* to perform high risk work will need to convert to a new **Licence to Perform High Risk Work** (the Licence).

The new Licence will be a small plastic card with photo identification (similar to a driver's licence) with a list of all the classes of high risk work that the holder is authorised to perform. Unlike existing Certificates of Competency and old style tickets*, the Licence will require renewal every five years. At this time the licence holder will need to provide evidence that they have maintained their skills and are still competent to perform high risk work.

A person must be aged 18 years or older to obtain the new Licence or be assessed for any type of high risk work.

New classes of high risk work

With the implementation of the Standard, the operation of **forklifts** and **order picking forklifts** will be defined as high risk work. Those people who currently have a ticket* or authority to operate a forklift will need to apply for the new Licence if they wish to remain qualified to operate this equipment. Forklift operators will then have a nationally recognised licence that shows they are competent in the safe operation of this equipment.

The Standard also defines a new class of high risk work, the **operation of a self-erecting tower crane**.

When will the changes happen?

On 1 September 2010 South Australia will begin issuing the new Licence.

There will be plenty of time to change over to the new licensing system, and you can continue using your existing qualifications for now. The Standard provides a transition period of up to five years (see table below), depending on the issue date of a person's existing Certificate of Competency or ticket*.

| DATE OF ISSUE OF OLDEST QUALIFICATION | YOU MUST TRANSFER YOUR QUALIFICATIONS BEFORE ** |
|---|---|
| Before 3 April 1995 | 1 September 2011 |
| Between 4 April 1995 – 31 December 1998 | 1 September 2012 |
| Between 1 January 1999 – 31 December 2001 | 1 September 2013 |
| Between 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2004 | 1 September 2014 |
| Between 1 January 2005 – 1 September 2010 | 1 September 2015 |

People who have a valid qualification issued **before 3 April 1995** will need to provide SafeWork SA with evidence of their skills and competency in order to convert to the new Licence. This will be explained clearly in the conversion application process.

People who have a valid qualification issued **after 3 April 1995** will be able to convert this directly to the new Licence without the need to provide SafeWork SA with any additional evidence and they will not have to be assessed again. SafeWork SA will send a tax invoice to these people when their Certificate or Notice of Satisfactory Assessment is due for conversion.

Conversions will take place over five years, depending on the date of the applicant's oldest qualification. The oldest Certificate will expire first: any other qualifications will be converted at the same time.

Who will this affect?

In South Australia, the changes to licensing introduced by the Standard will affect all people who:

- currently hold a Certificate of Competency and wish to continue performing the work that their certificate authorises them to do
- hold an old style (pre-3 April 1995) certificate or ticket* and wish to continue to be authorised to do this work
- have satisfactorily completed a course of Basic Training in the Operation of a Forklift (issued before 3 April 1995), pursuant to the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986*
- hold a Notice of Satisfactory Assessment or ticket* to operate a forklift truck or order picking forklift truck
- have not held a certificate previously and intend to apply for a new Licence.

There are also important changes for **Registered Assessors and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)**.

Registered Assessors will need to be employed by, affiliated with, or be an RTO. At the moment some assessors work with RTOs and some work independently. RTOs and assessors throughout Australia will be required to provide training and assessment that is consistent with national requirements of the Standard.

For a full list of the licence classes affected, please refer to the Schedule (on page 22) in the *National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work 2006*.

What action do I need to take to get the new Licence?

At this stage, you don't need to take any action.

People who are currently qualified can continue using existing Certificates of Competency and tickets*. In addition, until the adoption date, people can continue to be trained, assessed for and issued with a Certificate of Competency.

Keep an eye on the SafeWork SA website for up-to-date information about the next steps (you can also register there to receive email updates). You can also prepare by finding and getting in order any paperwork relevant to your high risk work qualifications.

* 'Ticket' is a colloquial term used in industry to refer to a qualification for high risk work and is frequently used to describe a qualification to operate a forklift. This includes a Notice of Satisfactory Assessment.

** If you miss the date by which you should have converted your ticket* or Certificate of Competency to the new Licence, you **must not** continue to perform the work for which they previously qualified you. Contact SafeWork SA immediately. You may have to attend an RTO to re-train and be reassessed.

CONTACT SAFEWORK SA

General enquiries

HELP CENTRE

Telephone: **1300 365 255**

Email: help@safework.sa.gov.au

COUNTRY OFFICES

located in Berri, Mount Gambier,
Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Whyalla

High Risk Work enquiries

Email: highriskwork@safework.sa.gov.au

Web: www.safework.sa.gov.au

(where you can register to receive email alerts)