

Major incidents and occurrences

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Clause 531

Major incident at a major hazard facility is an occurrence that:

- results from an uncontrolled event at the major hazard facility involving, or potentially involving, Schedule 15 hazardous chemicals; and
- exposes a person to a serious risk to health or safety arising from an immediate or imminent exposure to the occurrence.

An occurrence includes an escape, spillage or leakage; or implosion, explosion or fire.

Control of risks

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Part 9.3

Major hazards facilities require licensing with WorkCover and to do so must provide information including:

- A **safety case** that identifies at potential major incidents, emergency plans and security;
- A **safety assessment** that considers potential incidents; their likelihood and impact; and a range of controls that eliminate or minimize the risk of a major incident as far as reasonably practicable;
- An **emergency plan** that includes testing of procedures;
- A **safety management system** covering all aspects of risk control in relation to potential major incidents

Review of risk management

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Clause 559

The operator of a major hazards facility must conduct a review and revise its risk management when:

- a modification to the major hazard facility is proposed or a new major hazard risk is identified;
- a risk control does not minimise the relevant risk so far as is reasonably practicable; e.g. as identified in the testing of emergency procedures;
- the results of consultation by the operator indicate that a review is necessary;
- a HSR requests the review (the above have been identified and not adequately addressed); and/or
- WorkCover requires the review.

Consultation with workers

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Clause 575

The operator of a major hazard facility must consult with workers in relation to:

- the preparation of the safety case outline and preparation and review of the safety case;
- the preparation, testing and implementation of the emergency plan
- the establishment and implementation of the safety management system;
- the conduct of a review; and
- the implementation of the workers' safety role.

Safety role for workers

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Clause 574

The operator of the facility is required to implement a safety role for workers to facilitate consultation with workers and enable them to contribute to the identification of major incidents and their hazards, consider controls and participate in the review process.

Duties of workers

WHS Regulations Chapter 9 Clause 576

A worker must, unless to do so would risk the health or safety of the worker, another worker or other person:

- comply with procedures imposed as a control measure in relation to major incidents, including the taking of corrective action under the procedure; and
- comply with any procedure in the emergency plan, including the taking of corrective action; and
- immediately inform the operator of any situation the worker believes may cause a major incident; and
- inform his or her supervisor about any corrective action taken by the worker.