

Definition of Plant

WHS Act s4, WHS Regulations Chapter 5 cl 185

Plant includes:

- any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool; and
- any component of any of those things; and
- anything fitted or connected to any of those things.

The General Duties of the WHS Regulations Part 5.1 apply to plant except plant that:

- relies exclusively on manual power for its operation; and
- is designed to be primarily supported by hand

but does apply to explosive power tools that are designed to be supported by hand.

Definition of Structures

WHS Act s4, WHS Regulations Chapter 5 cl 185

Structure means anything that is constructed, whether fixed or moveable, temporary or permanent, and includes:

- buildings, masts, towers, framework, pipelines, transport infrastructure and underground works (shafts or tunnels); and any component or part of a structure.

The General Duties of the WHS Regulations 5.1 apply to structures.

General duties in relation to plant and structures

WHS Regulations Chapter 5 Part 5.1

General duties that apply to plant and structures are imposed on PCBUs that design, manufacture, supply (including supply of second-hand plant), install, construct or commission, manage or control plant.

Aspects of plant that general duties apply to include:

- Provision of information;
- Identification of hazards and control of risks;
- Maintenance and inspection;
- Guarding and insulation, operational and emergency controls, and warning devices; and
- Securing of plant not in use; and prevention of unauthorised alterations or interference.

Additional and specific controls measures for specific plant

WHS Regulations Chapter 5 cl 214 – 226

Additional and specific controls are required for the following plant including consideration of:

- **Powered mobile plant** – provision of operator protective devices, persons on plant, others in the work area etc.;
- **Tractors** – roll-over protection;
- **Earthmoving machinery** – protective structures;
- **Industrial lift trucks** – suitability of attachments, risks to operators and others, persons on plant;
- **Plant that lifts or suspends loads** – design, safe working limits, path of movement, control of load;
- **Plant used in connection with tree lopping** – risk assessments, competency, fall prevention;
- **Industrial robots** – control of the area, presence-sensing devices, permit to work etc.;
- **Lasers** – prevention of accidental irradiation, exposure to radiation, training etc.;
- **Pressure equipment** – inspection, marking and filling of gas cylinders;
- **Scaffolds** – construction and inspection by competent persons , unauthorised access; and
- **Plant with presence sensing safeguarding systems** – records of testing, maintenance, installation etc.