

New licence for high risk work

*For scaffolders,
doggers and riggers
and operators of
forklifts, cranes,
hoists and pressure
vessels.*

Do you carry out scaffolding, dogging or rigging work?

Do you operate a forklift, crane, hoist or pressure equipment?

Do you employ workers who do this work or operate this equipment?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, you need to know that new Australia-wide licensing rules apply to this 'high risk work'. Licences issued under the new National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work replace the current National Certificates of Competency, and will allow you to work anywhere in Australia.

The new licence is renewable every five years, and national regulations will be in place in July 2007.

In Western Australia, the new standard will take effect from 1 October 2007, to give you enough time to meet the requirements.

What about forklift operators?

Under this new Standard, it will be compulsory for forklift operators to hold a national licence. However, if you currently operate forklifts under the existing regulations, you can continue to work during a transitional period. You will need to convert your existing forklift qualification to the national licence (subject to meeting application and assessment requirements) according to the conversion timetable in this bulletin.

For a forklift operator, the new licence means you will now be able to work anywhere in Australia.

If you intend to undertake training from 1 October 2007 to operate a forklift for **the first time**, you will need to obtain a national licence.

WorkSafe

Westcentre, 5th Floor, 1260 Hay Street
West Perth, Western Australia 6005

Telephone: 9327 8777 Infoline: 1300 307 877
Facsimile: 9321 8973 Email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au
Internet: www.docep.wa.gov.au



Department of Consumer
and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia



Why do I need a licence?

Safety is the main priority of the new licensing system. It's part of a national program designed to ensure that when you are involved in high risk work, you will:

- have skills and knowledge to perform high risk work competently;
- be part of a national competency-based and efficient licensing system;
- have a licence that allows you to undertake high risk work safely anywhere in Australia; and
- be 18 years of age or over.

How does the licence work?

Your new licence will resemble a drivers' licence – complete with photograph and your high risk work list of classes. This will provide you with security and reduce the chance of fraud and corruption in the system.

The licence will be valid for five years. While you can have several classes on one licence, the starting date for the licence will be the date the licence is issued for the first class.

Although the licensing standard commences on 1 October 2007, you will still be able to use your existing National Certificate of Competency. However, you will be required to convert your National Certificate of Competency according to the following timetable:

<i>Date of issue of the National Certificate of Competency (and forklift qualification)</i>	<i>National Certificate of Competency (and forklift qualification) must be converted to a licence before the dates below</i>
Western Australian 'State' Certificates of Competency issued prior to 1 July 1994 and O.H.S. Certification Australia cards issued from 1 July 1994 to 31 December 1995	30 June 2008
Between 1 January 1996 – 31 December 1998	30 June 2009
Between 1 January 1999 – 31 December 2001	30 June 2010
Between 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2004	30 June 2011
Between 1 January 2005 – 30 September 2007	30 June 2012

You will have to convert your certificate to a licence by this date to undertake high risk work. If not, you may have to undertake training and assessment with a registered training organisation before being able to commence high risk work.

Regional offices:

Albany (08) 9842 8366
 Bunbury (08) 9722 2888
 Geraldton (08) 9964 5644
 Karratha (08) 9185 0900

How much will it cost?

<i>Licensing fees table</i>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Application for a new licence or variation to a licence	\$71 per licence class
Application for a replacement licence	\$45
Application to convert a certificate of competency (or forklift qualification) to a licence	\$45
Application for the renewal of a licence	\$60

Where can I get more information?

Information (including Frequently Asked Questions) is available on WorkSafe's website at:

www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

or contact WorkSafe's Advisory Services on:

Phone: **(08) 9327 8728**

Email: **wslicensing@docep.wa.gov.au**

Postal address: **PO Box 294 WEST PERTH WA 6872**

This bulletin is available on request in other formats to assist people with special needs.

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