

NSW Workcover Premium Scheme Update (Hopefully the last!)

As publicised in previous newsletters and regional meetings, new regulations come into effect in January 2006. However, some interim measures are in place from 1/7/05-31/12/05. In summary, the "experience factor adjustment" calculation will not be applied to policies that have a basis tariff premium of less than \$10,000. This is up from the previous base of \$3,000. So in other words, between now and 1/1/06 if your wages are kept below approx.\$85,543 (annualised) you will not have to pay the experience factor adjustment on any injuries. From 1/1/06 if your wages are less than \$300,000 you will not be exposed to the experience factor adjustment.

A further update: for a current policy to be 'adjusted' under the new formula, in the event of a claim, the policy has to be 'renewed' on its anniversary to be calculated under the new formula rules. For example, if your policy was renewed on the 30 June 2005 and your wages are under \$300,000 but your basic premium is over \$3,000, an employee making a claim in January 2006, the first \$150,000 of that claim would be added into you policy formula and you would be paying a significant proportion of that \$150,000 off over the coming 3 years.

Therefore you need to start a new policy on 1st January 2006, with a different insurer and cancel your old policy at the same time (you will be told you have to give 60 days notice). Going forward, you will then need to use this policy for the next \$300,000 in wages that you pay to employees.

If your annualised wages are less than \$85,000, you can take advantage of the the interim rules if your policy has been renewed after the 1/7/05.

If you are confused - and I am sure most of you are feel free to call me discuss your situation. Futhermore If you have wages in NSW greater than \$300,000 and have not been to any regional meetings or spoken with the secretary then please call also!

UPSP demonstration at the AWI AGM - Adelaide

Australian Wool Innovation will be demonstrating the first of the Upright Posture Shearing Platform (UPSP) on the 10th November at the Adelaide Shores Function Centre in West Beach, Adelaide. AWI is inviting SCAA member Shearing Contractors to a demonstrations of this platform.

The Peak Hill Industries ShearEzy unit is the first of four different platform designs currently undertaking field trials. Bill Byrne, the principle of Peak Hill Industries, is keen to demonstrate the platform to show the effectiveness of shearing in an upright position.

The UPSP has been developed to try and address the significant OH&S concerns that relate to shearing by moving the sheep into a position so the shearer does not have to bend as well as eliminating "catch and drag" of the sheep as this is automated.

The SCAA urges members to attend. To register for the demonstration, please contact the SCAA secretary or Joe Sullivan at AWI on (02) 8295 3139.

SCAA is proud supported by



A Sign for the Times - another SCAA OH&S Initiative

Thanks to the efforts of Will Reddington and Ralph Blue, a package of Shearing Shed signage is available to SCAA members. The package includes 18 signs that will fulfill the requirements of the shed owner and employer's obligation to provide a safe work place for all employees, in terms of hazzard identification. The signage is there to mark out the dangers and provide reminders and direction about other safety issues. Hopefully by now you are all only too well aware the fact that although you do not own the workplace, it is your responsibility to ensure that the workplace is safe.

By having the signage in each shed you are creating a first impression that the shed owner is OH&S aware. In some of the older sheds where improvements are still required, the signs will go a long way to 'window dressing' a less than perfect situation. This 'window dressing' is not the answer to OH&S but it may start the ball rolling for some of your less willing customers.

To buy the 18 signs in the 'pack', SCAA members will pay \$70 + \$6 freight to anywhere in Australia (retail is \$120). The obvious plan would be to order a pack of signs for each shed you contract at and nail them up the next time you are at the shed. Then add the cost to the shearing invoice. Compliants can be addressed with the fact that "you have no choice" when it comes to OH&S compliance - it is the law.

Call, Fax or Email the Secretary to place an order.



A letter from Greg Sawyer from Awex is attached. - please read

In summary:

- Use only registered woolclasser to prepare clips
- see www.woolsearch.com.au to find woolclassers
- register your contracting business on their website

AWARDS CHANGE ON 31 OCTOBER 2005

The Federal Pastoral Award

Woolclassers Award

Both Awards change on Monday 31st October 2005. The Australian Industrial Commision ratified the changes last Friday (14-10-05). A copy of the amended Federal Pastoral Award is enclosed. The Woolclassers Award was sent out last month.

Heiniger: new 'Brown' Emery Paper \$4.40 (inclGST)

Heiniger Glue 12 x 500ml \$110 (incl GST)

Call 0412 600 586 to place an order

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