

2 October 2014

CIRCULAR NO 1341

To: The Secretary all Totalisator Clubs and Kindred Bodies

From: Edward Rennell, Chief Executive

Subject: **HEALTH AND SAFETY REFORM BILL UPDATE**

WorkSafe have released their first update on the Health and Safety Reform Bill. Rather than reiterate it all in this Circular, I have attached the link below. It is a very good overview of the changes that will come into force next year and impact on all of us in some form. Remember this legislation has been described as the most significant workplace reform for over 20 years.

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/about/reform>

In summary, the best description of our responsibility is:

“All parties that have the ability to impact on health and safety in the racing industry will need to work together to eliminate or minimise risks to Health and Safety.”

Workshops

After consultation with some of the racing clubs and industry sector groups, it was decided to delay the workshops from October until the first quarter of 2015. With the legislation still not finalised and the Select Committee still hearing submissions, it was considered that the workshops would be more effective once the legislation is finalised.

Project Progress

Licensing

Because the codes are responsible for licensing industry participants and these participants are bound by rules that are made by code bodies, health and safety will need to be included in both the rules and licensing process. The rules already cover a lot of safety procedures and the update of these will be relatively straightforward by including a health and safety section that will address or reference all safety requirements.

Training

The industry provides good training support at present but health and safety modules will need to be added and regularly audited to ensure completeness for all industry participants including Board/Committee members, management and staff. Health and safety must also be an essential part of every induction programme.

Board Reporting

All Boards/Committees must have health and safety as part of their regular reports and be made aware of any reportable incidents. Health and safety should be accorded the same priority as other strategic initiatives. The new Act will impose on Directors/Committees a “due diligence duty” that ensures those in governance roles must be proactively managing workplace health and safety and have an evidence based assessment of the health and safety systems in place. Lack of knowledge will not be an adequate defence in the face of an investigation into breaches of workplace health and safety legislation.

Documentation

Each and every race club will be required to have a health and safety work plan that is tailored to their race track and operation. The codes will then have a responsibility to ensure that clubs have put a work plan in place and that it meets the required standards. This project will deliver a good framework for clubs and sector groups to follow. Because of the nature of the racing industry, it will be critical to review at least annually club documentation and work plans as well as the venue hazard identification work being carried out now.

Websites and Web Based Training

The project will be investigating using the code websites as both a health and safety communication and training tool, this approach was used very successfully in Australia.

Australian Experiences

The new health and safety legislation mirrors that introduced into Australia and has been implemented by the racing clubs over there. We intend to learn from the Australian experience and will be visiting both NSW and Victoria to meet with the key staff involved in race track/race meeting health and safety documentation, protocols and processes.

Any questions, don't hesitate to contact myself or Stu Cashen (cashen@actrix.co.nz).



Edward Rennell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE