

15 April 2016

CIRCULAR NO 1604

TO: THE SECRETARY, ALL TOTALISATOR CLUBS AND KINDRED BODIES

FROM: EDWARD RENNELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT (HSWA)

HSWA became law on Monday 4th April accompanied by some hysteria and misinformation from some media outlets. However, every PCBU such as Trainers, Drivers, Clubs, and Breeders must review their workplace health and safety to ensure that they comply, under the new law there is a lot more emphasis on those responsible for the workplace to ensure that it is safe for workers.

WorkSafe have recently clarified the reporting criteria for a notifiable event and it would be worthwhile printing out this information, as noncompliance can result in substantial fines.

What is a notifiable event?

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) you must notify us when certain work-related events occur.

A notifiable event is when any of the following occurs as a result of work:

- a death
- notifiable illness or injury, eg any injury requiring professional medical treatment
- a notifiable incident, eg an accident that could have resulted in an injury that would have required professional medical treatment.

Use our Notifiable Event tool below to help you with understanding which events are notifiable, what you need to do and when, and how to notify us.

Deaths, injuries or illnesses that are unrelated to work are not notifiable events eg:

- a diabetic worker slipping into a coma at work
- a worker being injured driving to work, when that driving is not part of their work
- injuries to patients or rest home residents that are triggered by a medical reason (eg injuries from a fall caused by a stroke)
- a worker fainting from a non-work related cause.

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/notifiable-events/notifiable-event-problem-solver>

NZRB/Club Raceday Health and Safety Agreement (Shared Duties)

The New Zealand Racing Board (**NZRB**) and the code bodies are drafting up a shared and overlapping duties agreement pursuant to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (**HSW Act**) on advice from the lawyers. This agreement will be sent out to clubs to sign in conjunction with their NZRB oncourse representatives in the next few weeks. In the interim, clubs do not have to pursue any individual agreements with the racing Board.

HRNZ Website Health and Safety Information

Trainers who wished to prepare their own Health and Safety plan would like to see more guidance placed on the website. An overview on how to prepare your Health & Safety Plan and where to start can now be found on the website.

The horse riding and stable safety brochure on the HRNZ web site is a comprehensive document with detail on how to make your stable and work environments safer to avoid the most common and preventable accidents. The document can be found on the following link.

<http://www.hrnz.co.nz/health-safety>

ACC Levies

ACC levies will increase this coming year because of an increase in claims from the industry. In conjunction with ACC, we have been looking at actions that could assist the industry to reduce the injury rate and improve injury recovery, with the objectives of making the industry safer and reducing ACC levy payments. From observations and feedback the following actions were recommended.

Footwear

All staff should wear suitable footwear when working in the stable environment or with horses at the race track. Stables and race courses are work environments and regulations require staff to dress appropriately. There were 35 claims for serious foot injuries (thoroughbred and harness) last year due to staff not wearing suitable footwear.

Staff are required, for safety purposes, to have appropriate footwear that is easy to walk in and will protect their feet if stood on by a horse. High heels and jandals are inappropriate and unsafe examples of footwear. They should not be worn when working around or leading horses as the handler may have less control over the horse and risk injury to themselves or worse, someone else. Stewards may direct a person not to lead a horse if there are safety concerns.



Staff should also remember that when a horse is led or ridden within the confines of any racecourse or training track under the jurisdiction of a club it is recommended that at all times the horse has a bit in its mouth. When the horse is led either by reins or a lead it is recommended they be attached to the bit.

Mobile Telephones and Horses Don't Mix

There were reports that people were using their mobiles while being engaged in work with or around horses or while riding. As we all know horses can be unpredictable animals and while engaged in their care mobile phones must not be used.

Slips/Trips/Falls

The high number of injuries around stables caused by slips/falls/trip is of concern, most of these injuries are preventable with work place tidiness being high on the list of prevention. If gear is packed away rather than left lying around it reduces the risk. Other main causes are unsuitable footwear, lack of hazard identification and lack of maintenance around stable flooring and pathways.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact either myself, Darrin Williams or:

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