

# Work Health & Safety Obligations

## Users of Plant & Equipment

### MANDATORY OBLIGATIONS

<p>WHS Act 2020 Part 2: Division 2 &amp; 3</p> <p>The full ACT can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>The full Regulations can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><b>Primary Duty of Care</b> Primary Duty of Care creates the primary duty to ensure <b>as far as reasonably practicable</b> provision of safe plant &amp; structures, safe systems of work, information training and supervision.</p>
<p>WHS Act 2020 Part 2: Division 1: Subdivision 2</p>	<p>WHS Regulations Reg 34-39, 203- 213</p>	<p><b>As Far As Reasonably Practicable</b> The risk assessment process (identify hazards, assess risks, implement controls) is critical in determining what is <b>reasonably practicable</b> in providing safe plant, safe systems of work, information, training &amp; supervision.</p>
<p>WHS Act 2020 Part 2: Division 2: Section 19</p>	<p>WHS Regulations Reg 39</p>	<p><b>Provide Information, Training &amp; Supervision</b> Clarifies the positive obligation to ensure <b>as far as reasonably practicable</b> the provision of information, training &amp; supervision necessary to protect all persons from risks to health.</p>
	<p>WHS Regulations Reg 203-226</p>	<p><b>Plant Owners and Users Must:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow the hazard identification, risk assessment and control process</li> <li>2. Ensure plant meets certain specific design and maintenance criteria</li> <li>3. Provide a safe environment - this includes following the hazard identification, risk assessment and control process for workplaces and tasks</li> <li>4. Provide instruction, training and supervision for users of plant and others</li> </ol>
	<p>WHS Regulations Reg 235-237</p>	<p><b>Registered Plant – Additional Duties</b> Registered Plant includes: certain lifting devices and attachments, pressure vessels, some amusement devices, pre-fabricated scaffold and formwork and concrete pumps (Schedule 5 parts 1 &amp; 2) Suppliers and owner/ users have additional obligations to inspect, test, keep records, register and inspect these plant items.</p>
<p>WHS Act 2020 Part 2: Division 2 &amp; 3</p>		<p><b>Contractor &amp; Subcontractor Management</b> There is a fundamental obligation upon duty holders to ensure the safety of contractors and subcontractors.</p>

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### REGULATOR GUIDANCE MATERIAL

The Safety Regulator for each jurisdiction issues guidance material on specific safety issues. Guidance materials are designed to elaborate on HOW to satisfy the obligations set down by the legislation. Guidance covers a very broad variety of topics such as excavation work, hazard identification & risk assessment, various specific plant & equipment issues etc.

Western Australia codes of practice are available [here](#).

A catalogue of Western Australia guidance material is available [here](#).

Following regulator guidance is not mandatory; however failure to meet or exceed the guidance may be used in a prosecution as evidence of a failure to satisfy "duty of care" obligations.

Whilst there is a multitude of guidance material available, the following documents are particularly useful as they cover plant supplier and user duties and are recommended reading:

1. [Code of practice "Safeguarding of Machinery and Plant 2009"](#)
2. [Code of Practice "Managing risks of plant in the workplace" - Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](#)
3. [Machinery and equipment safety - An Introduction](#)

Plant Assessor applies the specific requirements of relevant guidance material in the context of a plant hazard assessment.

### INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE

There is an underlying requirement in the WHS legislation that duty holders must be conscious of the existence and further development of "industry knowledge" relating to management of safety hazards and risks.

The most well-known examples of industry knowledge are Australian and International Standards; however industry knowledge can be contained in a multitude of medium, including for example industry association publications.

This is probably the most difficult information for duty holders to keep abreast of. Examples of some highly important Australian Standards relating to plant include:

- AS 4024 (series) – Safety of machinery
- AS 1418 (series) – Cranes, hoists and winches
- AS 2550 (series) – Cranes, hoists and winches – safe use
- AS 2294 (series) – Earth-moving machinery - Protective structures
- AS/NZS 2153 (series) – Tractors and Agricultural Machinery
- AS 1657 – Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways & ladders – design & construction
- AS/NZS 1200 (series) – Pressure Equipment

Plant Assessor condenses all of the relevant requirements of standards and applies them against specific plant types in the context of a plant hazard assessment.