

Workers reminded to renew 'high-risk' licences

WORKCOVER NSW is reminding rural workers qualified to operate high-risk plant and equipment to review, and if necessary renew, their licences.

High-risk work licences are needed to operate a range of machinery including forklifts and cranes, and pressure equipment such as boilers and turbines.

They are also required in order to carry out scaffolding, rigging and dogging work.

WorkCover NSW Work Health and Safety Division general manager John Watson said the changes were part of a national approach to uniform licensing and

mobility across Australia.

"This is the final stage of the NSW transition, which began in 2006," Mr Watson said.

"The incoming changes are going to be very beneficial to the thousands of people in NSW currently holding a high-risk work licence."

Mr Watson said there would be two main changes to the current system.

"The three different WorkCover high-risk work licences will be combined into one easily-recognisable card with a photo, expiry date, and information showing the type of high-risk activity the holder is licensed to perform.

"Secondly, this new card will be recognised across all the states and territories.

"This is going to be beneficial across many industries where we see people moving interstate for short or long periods of work."

Mr Watson said there were three simple ways to tell if your licence needs to be replaced.

"If you received your licence before 1996, or if it doesn't have an expiry date or photo ID, the licence will need to be replaced," he said

"Since 2006 WorkCover has been contacting licences holders via letter and advertising the

changes through the media.

"Anyone unsure if their licence needs to be replaced should call WorkCover on 13 10 50, email us at contact@workcover.nsw.gov.au, or visit our website www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

"WorkCover will send you a renewal pack. You will then need to lodge an application form, a passport sized photo, proof of identity and pay a \$60 fee for the new five-year photo licence.

All affected licences must be renewed before the end of this year.

Wage change for dairy farm workers

DAIRY managers are reminded they may need to increase wages for workers, following the recent Fair Work Australia wage review.

Dairy Australia's The People in Dairy program manager Dr Pauline Brightling said the new wage rates became operative from the first full pay period on or after 1 July.

"The new pay rates take effect from the first pay period on or after 1 July and the minimum wage for each classification in the Pastoral Award 2010 has increased by 2.9 per cent per week," she said.

The People in Dairy website has updated the following pages with the new rates:

- Working out a package
- Transitional pay rate tables
- High income threshold

For more information visit The People in Dairy website www.thepeopleindairy.org.au

The People in Dairy is one of the many examples of the dairy service levy at work.

For more information on this and other levy investments visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au.

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