

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0026_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

SWA -Occupational Health and Safety harmonisation

When are all aspects of Occupational Health and Safety harmonisation – including the model codes of practice – going to be finalised? a. For each outstanding part, please advise when each part is expected to be finalised.

Answer

Safe Work Australia has provided the following response:

All aspects of the harmonisation process have been finalised apart from the model WHS mines regulations, certain Codes of Practice and guidance material. The table in Attachment A sets out when each of these is expected to be finalised. Finalisation by the end of 2012 is subject to public comment processes, agreement by Safe Work Australia Members and Select Council on Workplace Relations endorsement.

Safe Work Australia is developing the model Codes of Practice in stages to keep the workload manageable and ensure stakeholders have reasonable time to contribute to their development.

The first stage of 11 model Codes of Practice were prioritised on the basis they were considered to be critical to the operation of the new model WHS laws. They were approved by a majority of jurisdictions and currently apply in those jurisdictions that commenced the new WHS laws on 1 January 2012.

Progress of OHS harmonisation

<i>Name</i>	<i>Timing</i>
WHS Regulations	
Model WHS Mines Regulations	<p>National Mines Safety Framework Steering Group meeting on 9-10 July 2012 to resolve outstanding policy issue relating to small mines.</p> <p>Once resolved, mines regulations will be sent to Safe Work Australia Members for approval to send for out of session endorsement by Select Council on Workplace Relations. This is expected to occur September/October 2012.</p>
WHS Codes of Practice	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First aid in the workplace 2. Construction Work 3. Preventing Falls in Housing Construction 4. Managing Electrical Risks at the Workplace 5. Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals 6. Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace 7. Spray Painting and Powder Coating 8. Abrasive Blasting 9. Welding Processes 10. Excavation Work 11. Demolition Work 12. Safe Design of Structures 	Awaiting approval from the Select Council on Workplace Relations.
13. Tree Trimming and Removal Crane Access Method	Being revised based on public comment feedback. Draft is ready for approval by Safe Work Australia Members in August/September. Code will then be sent to Select Council on Workplace Relations for endorsement.
14. Preventing and Responding to Workplace Bullying	Being revised based on public comment feedback. Draft is ready to be considered by Safe Work Australia Members. It is expected it will be released for public comment and finalised second half of 2012.
15. Preventing and Managing Fatigue in the Workplace	Being revised based on public comment feedback. A draft is expected by the end of the year.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Safe Design, Manufacture, Import and Supply of Plant 17. Working in the Vicinity of Overhead and Underground Electrical Lines 18. Traffic Management in Workplaces 19. Scaffolding Work 20. Formwork and Falsework 	<p>Codes are currently being revised based on public comment feedback.</p> <p>Once revised the codes will be forwarded to Safe Work Australia Members for approval. This is expected to occur August/September 2012. Codes will then be sent to Select Council on Workplace Relations for endorsement.</p>

21. Cranes 22. Amusement devices 23. Industrial lift trucks 24. Rural plant 25. Cash-in- transit 26. Forestry	Released for public comment from 8 June – 24 August 2012. The codes will be revised based on public comment feedback and then forwarded to Safe Work Australia Members for approval. This is expected to occur in November 2012. The codes will then be sent to Select Council on Workplace Relations for endorsement.
Guidance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic management for specific workplaces – 5 guides • Health Monitoring • Vibration • Cyanide poisoning • Heritage plant • Foundry work • Water-jetting 	Under development. To be completed in 2012. Select Council on Workplace Relations for endorsement not required.
Codes – Under development	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diving work – Stakeholder consultation occurring. 2. Managing risks in policing – Stakeholder consultation occurring. 3. Tilt-up and Pre-cast concrete in building construction - Delayed until AS 3850 is revised. 4. Managing Risk in Housing Construction - Stakeholder consultation occurring. 5. E-waste – Stakeholder consultation occurring. 6. Stevedoring – Stakeholder consultation occurring. <p>It is expected that these codes will be finalised by the end of 2012, however whether these codes are developed remains subject to stakeholder consultation and public comment processes. It could be the case that guidance is produced covering these areas.</p>	