



Australian Government

Australian Safety and
Compensation Council

**MR BILL SCALES
CHAIRMAN
11 February 2009**

MEDIA RELEASE

**PRELIMINARY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PLANT REGULATION NOW
OPEN**

The Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) today announced a three month public comment period is open for a discussion paper on *Safety Requirements for the Design, Manufacture and Conformity Assessment of Plant*. The discussion paper proposes strategies to address current issues associated with the design and manufacture of plant.

ASCC Chairman, Mr Bill Scales AO, said: "The public comment period provides interested parties with an opportunity to have their say on this important occupational health and safety issue".

The *National Standard for Plant* was declared in 1994 by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and established hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control processes for all types of plant.

The ASCC is reviewing the standard and is seeking comment on whether the proposed approaches to improve the regulation of plant design are appropriate in an Australian context.

"The effective management of plant design is critical to improving occupational health and safety in Australia. In 2005-06, plant was identified as a contributing factor in more than 40 per cent of all serious injury claims and in 60 per cent of workplace fatalities*," Mr Scales said.

The ASCC agreed to release the preliminary draft *Safety Requirements for the Design, Manufacture and Conformity Assessment of Plant* for comment at its meeting in Canberra on 20 November 2008.

This public comment process is targeted at designers, manufacturers, suppliers and importers of plant, with the discussion paper supported by two documents; *Attachment*

A – Essential Safety Outcomes for Plant and Attachment B – Draft Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

The results of the public comment process will assist the ASCC to refine the policy approach it will take towards the management of plant regulation into the future.

Visit the ASCC website at ascc.gov.au to download the Discussion Paper, and to upload your submission.

The public comment period is 11 February 2009 – 15 May 2009. Comment must be provided to the ASCC by close of business on 15 May 2009.

*Source: Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2005-06 ASCC Canberra 2008 ISBN 978-0-642-32821-2

Media contact: Tracey Lianos (02) 6121 7071 / 0412 261 711