



SAFETY ALERT

Safe Work Australia has released a new report on work health and safety in the road freight transport industry.

The report was released in response to the identification of the road transport industry sub-sector as a priority in the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022* (the Australian Strategy). The road transport industry together with the agriculture industry was identified as the focus of efforts in all jurisdictions during the first five years of the Australian Strategy due to the high numbers of fatalities in these industries.

The report provides an overview of the work health and safety status within the road freight transport industry, an industry primarily engaged in transporting freight using trucks on public roads. Road freight transport is a sub-sector of the road transport industry.

The main findings of the report were as follows:

- There was a 48 percent decrease in the annual number of work-related injury fatalities in the industry over the last four years. Despite this, fatality rates in the road freight transport industry were roughly ten times higher than those for all industries across the eight years up to 2011.
- 78 percent of the work-related injury fatalities were the result of single-vehicle incidents on public roads.
- There were around 4000 non-fatal serious workers' compensation claims requiring a week or more away from work each year between 2002 and 2011.
- The majority of serious workers' compensation claims were caused by manual handling or falls rather than vehicle incidents.

The full report is available from the Safe Work Australia website or contacting the below.

Legislative Requirements:

Pursuant to the *Occupational Safety and Health Act (WA)*, employers must provide a safe place of work. A motor vehicle, such as a truck, being used for work purposes is a place of work and there is a duty on the employer to ensure it is safe to work within. A driver using a work vehicle should be fit to work, competent and aware of the work place risks.

Barbaro Group:

Barbaro Group is a subject matter expert in all aspects of land transport, vehicle management and road safety.

For further information contact:

Paul Sofield: e – paul.sofield@[barbarogroup.com.au](mailto:paul.sofield@barbarogroup.com.au) / m – 0418874455 or visit us at www.barbarogroup.com.au