



The OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals

Information sheet No.2

The OHS Body of Knowledge

A defined body of knowledge is an important pre-requisite of a profession as it provides a basis for professional certification and for accreditation of programs giving entry to the profession. The lack of such a body of knowledge for OHS professionals was identified in reviews of OHS legislation and OHS education in Australia.

The OHS Body of Knowledge (OHS BoK) has been developed as an e-book describing the collective knowledge to be shared by Australian generalist OHS professionals to provide a sound basis for understanding the causation and control of work-related fatality, injury, disease and ill-health (FIDI). The OHS BoK describes key concepts and related evidence that can be applied in different contexts and frameworks.

How will the OHS Body of Knowledge be used?

The primary target audience for the OHS BoK is:

- OHS professional bodies who will use it in course accreditation and professional certification
- OHS educators who will use it in developing OHS education programs
- OHS professionals who will use it to guide their professional development.

The OHS BoK is also important to regulators, employers and recruiters as a standard for OHS professional practice.

How to access the OHS Body of Knowledge?

OHS professionals and practitioners can freely download and print single copies of the OHS BoK from the web site for their own professional use. Organisations wishing to print multiple copies of any chapters or use the OHS BoK for commercial purposes may acquire a licence to do so for a small fee. Organisations who acquire a licence will be recognised as a user and supporter of the OHS BoK. While the OHS BoK is published as an e-book and was not intended to be issued in hard copy, due to popular demand, hard copies have been printed and can be ordered at www.ohsbok.org.au.

Who 'owns' the OHS Body of Knowledge?

The development of the OHS BoK, 2012 was funded by WorkSafe Victoria as part of the OHS Body of Knowledge project. At the conclusion of that part of the project WorkSafe Victoria assigned the copyright of the OHS BoK to the Safety Institute of Australia with the condition that the SIA would actively promote the OHS BoK, support its dissemination and maintain its currency. Thus ensuring that this important piece of work continues to have relevance and be used by OHS professionals.

Who funds the OHS Body of Knowledge?

The OHS BoK was developed as one part of the OHS Body of Knowledge project funded by WorkSafe Victoria. The actual OHS BoK was developed by the OHS Body of Knowledge Technical Panel who operated on a volunteer basis. The writing and peer review was by people selected for their expertise who gave their time as a contribution to the profession. To ensure its on-going relevance, the OHS BoK will need to be maintained and updated with the updating funded by workshops and other activities related to the OHS Body of Knowledge.

Who has the responsibility for maintaining and updating the OHS Body of Knowledge?

While the SIA 'owns' the OHS Body of Knowledge the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is the 'custodian' and so has responsibility for its maintenance and relevance. The Accreditation Board is currently identifying topics for further development. You can have input to this by making comment on the OHS Bok Feedback Form. See www.ohsbok.org.au