

WORKING IN HOT CONDITIONS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

As part of our commitment to achieving the principles of health and safety in our workplace, we recognise our moral and legal responsibility to provide a safe and healthy work environment for workers, contractors, customers and visitors. This commitment also extends to ensuring that measures are used to reduce risks to workers working in hot environments from adverse health effects such as heat stress and heat stroke.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We will ensure that exposure of employees to conditions that could result in them suffering from heat exhaustion, heat stress and other related illness is minimised by providing education, supervision, facilities and amenities to reduce the likelihood and consequences of working in hot conditions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

We will strive to ensure that workers are not, so far as is reasonably practicable, exposed to temperatures that may adversely affect their health and safety at the workplace, and that where this is not practicable, that appropriate measures are used to reduce risks to workers working in hot environments from adverse effects such as heat stress and heat stroke.

We will apply the hierarchy of risk controls in the selection of control measures for work in hot conditions, including the use of mechanical aids where practicable to reduce manual exertion, and the use of shade structures where practicable. Work practices such as job rotation and work breaks will be considered, and an ample supply of cool fresh water for drinking, washing and external cooling will be provided at workplaces.

We will inform and train workers to recognise symptoms of dehydration and heat-related illness. We will develop first aid and emergency procedures, and ensure that all persons understand them, and provide a means of summoning assistance for a worker who is affected by a heat-related illness.

Work-rest regimes will be used to reduce risk to workers where other methods have not reduced the risk sufficiently. The use of short breaks between periods of activity, rotation of duties, and use of work-rest regimes are important parts of the risk control process.

We will ensure that if any worker experiences significant symptoms of heat stress, appropriate assistance and treatment will be provided without delay. Supervisors will be trained to be aware of the warning signs of heat stress regardless of any temperature reading, and the corrective actions that must be taken to prevent further deterioration of an affected worker's condition (including seeking medical advice and treatment).

Jon Lim



Director