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**Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority**

Harmonisation of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) laws



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Background & Updates

- Harmonisation process
- Model OHS Legislation
- Moving forward



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How will harmonisation be achieved?

- Intergovernmental Agreement
- National Review into Model OHS laws
- Establishment of Safe Work Australia



Harmonisation process

- 18 May 2009: Workplace Relations Ministers' Council (WRMC) made decisions on the optimal structure and content of model OHS Act.
- Safe Work Australia has developed the model OHS Act in accordance with WRMC decisions
- 25 September 2009, WRMC endorsed the exposure draft of model OHS Act and key administrative regulations for public comment.



What does this mean for the Seacare scheme?

- WRMC agreed that industry specific OHS laws should only continue where they are objectively justified.
- Seacare Authority in consultation with stakeholders will examine need for separate OHS legislation for maritime industry.



Model OHS legislation

The model legislation will consist of:

- A principal OHS Act
- Model regulations, and
- Model Codes of Practice



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Workplace consultation, participation and representation

- Obligations on persons conducting a business or undertaking to consult with workers
- Health and Safety Representatives for work groups
Health and Safety Committees
- Issues resolution procedures
- Provisions against discrimination, victimisation or coercion
- Right to cease unsafe work



Where to from here?

September 2009/November 2009

- Public comment closes on 9 November 2009

December 2009

- Model OHS legislation submitted to WRMC for agreement

September 2009 – September 2010

- Development of model OHS Regulations

October 2010 – January 2011

- Model regulations released for public comment

June 2011

- Model regulations submitted to WRMC for agreement

December 2011

- All jurisdictions to have adopted model laws



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Further information

Websites:

www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

www.seacare.gov.au