



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner

Fact Sheet

Important changes to the OHS Accreditation Scheme

On 3 February 2009, the Australian Government announced a range of new initiatives under the \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan. This plan included funding for building and construction work.

For the economic stimulus measures to have the desired effect on the economy, it is essential that the stimulus to be provided from the Nation Building Jobs Plan flows quickly into areas of need so as to support jobs. For this reason alone the Government has decided to not require the application of the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) to certain projects funded under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

The Government has made changes to the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Accreditation Scheme) Regulations 2005* to not require the application of the Scheme to building and construction works funded under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

These changes will only apply to building work funded under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan in the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook* of 5 February 2009 (Appendix B). The application of the Scheme will remain unchanged for all other building work funded by the Australian Government.

Why have changes been made to the Scheme?

The Government made this decision to ensure projects funded under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan could be delivered as a matter of priority. The decision reflects the view of all Governments in Australia of the need to ensure stimulus measures flow quickly into areas of need so as to support jobs.

The Government's decision in no way compromises the high safety standards needed to gain OHS accreditation.

How do I know if the Scheme applies?

This change will only apply to building work that is listed in Appendix B of the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008-09*, as part of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

If you are unsure about the requirements for a particular project, in the first instance contact the funding agency for advice. If you are still unsure please email the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) at ofsc@deewr.gov.au or refer to information on fsc.gov.au.

What about building work announced in the recent Federal Budget?

The Scheme will apply to new funding for building work announced as part of the Commonwealth Budget on 12 May 2009, subject to Scheme thresholds.

The Scheme does not apply if the building work:

- relates to expense measures announced in Appendix B of the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008-09*
- forms part of a project which relates to a measure announced in Appendix B of the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008-09*, updated February 2009.

What about Occupational Health & Safety?

Building work funded under Nation Building and Jobs Plan will still be subject to the relevant state or territory health and safety laws.

The Australian Government is committed to improving the safety of all Australian workers, including those in the building and construction industry.

What are the benefits of being accredited?

Being accredited continues to give companies a commercial advantage for all Government funded building works outside of the Nation Building and Jobs plan, now and in the future.

The Federal Safety Commissioner strongly encourages non-accredited companies to apply for accreditation.

Where can I get more information?

A copy of Appendix B of the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008-09* can be downloaded from budget.gov.au/2008-09.

For general information about the Scheme, please visit fsc.gov.au, contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**, or email the OFSC at ofsc@deewr.gov.au.

Nation Building and Jobs Plan

Some of the programs included under Appendix B of the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2008-09*, updated February 2009 are listed below:

- Defence housing – funding for additional dwellings
- Building the Education Revolution
- Trade Training Centres in Schools
- Boom gates for rail crossings
- Additional funding for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program
- Repairing regional links on the national highway network
- Black Spot Program
- Investment in Social Housing

For further information you can:

- visit the FSC website at fsc.gov.au
- contact the FSC Assist Line on **1800 652 500**
- contact the OFSC via email at ofsc@deewr.gov.au



This fact sheet is correct as of 18 May 2009 Produced by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.

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