



# Seasons Greetings



## ETU OHS NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2005

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The "Wrap Tag" is a device that prevents the use of electrical equipment that is faulty or requires testing. It is a simple but an affordable device that features both "lock-out" and "tag out" functions for use on most 10amp and 15amp three pin electrical appliances and leads.

The device is secured over the power plug thereby creating a barrier, preventing the appliance from being plugged into a power socket. Space on the tag is provided for detailing equipment information and fault description.

With safety being a priority for most manufacturers and building companies, the Wrap Tag has been designed to Australian and New Zealand Standards. With respect to Electrical Installations Construction and Demolition Sites: AS/NZS 3760 requires:

Equipment, which fails to comply with

the criteria given in this standard, shall be withdrawn from service immediately and have a label attached to it warning against further use.

Secondly, the *Code of Practice for Safe Electrical Work*, clause 11.2.5, covered by the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, states: Portable electric tools— Equipment found to be defective must immediately be withdrawn from service and labelled "DANGER DO NOT USE" if it is to be repaired or otherwise directly made inoperable and safely disposed of, and destroyed.

The added benefit of the Wrap Tag is that it does not require any special skill level of the person applying it. It can be applied by a school teacher, nurse, carpenter or a member

of a safety committee This is ideal when a faulty appliance is found and can be taken out of service until the appropriate personnel i.e. (a licensed electrician) is available to rectify the problem. The manufacturer as a family-run business is proud that it is promoting an Australian owned and made product.

If sales permit the tags will soon be available in the wholesalers but at the moment orders can be tel/ fax on 8502 2960 or email centaurinnovations@optusnet.com.au

Costs are around \$1.30 each if bought in packs of five but costs will be less if larger orders are placed and the tags are supplied unpackaged.

#### OHS Reps Meetings 2006 10am—12pm

- 22nd February - Melbourne
- 29th March—ETU Geelong
- 26th April—Melbourne
- 31st May—ETU Morwell
- 28th June—Melbourne
- 26th July—Trades and Labour Portland
- 30th August—Melbourne
- 27th Sept—Trades and Labour Shepparton
- 25th October—Melbourne
- 29th November—ETU Geelong
- December tbc—Melbourne

#### UV EXPOSURE - A WORKSAFE CAMPAIGN

WorkSafe will begin enforcing sun protection on construction sites, following a launch on the 18th November of *Working Safely in the Sun*, a joint initiative with SunSmart, a program of the Cancer Council Victoria.

WorkSafe now expects all employers of outdoor workers to have sun protection measures in place during the months when UV radiation is at a harmful level.

Skin cancer is an almost-entirely preventable disease, and yet affects one in two Australians during their lifetimes. By encouraging workers to wear sun protective clothing such as long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses, and re-applying broad-spectrum SPF30+ sunscreen every two hours, employers dramatically reduce the

their staff's UV exposure levels. 26-per-cent of construction workers who volunteered for free WorkSafe-funded medical checks were found to have sun damage requiring referral for further medical attention.

The full article is available at:

<http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/dir090/vwa/media.nsf/docsbyUNID/A79C4BF0B8F5B7DDCA2570BD000FB C96?Open>

## PIN NOTICES – WHY AND WHEN TO USE THEM

A provisional improvement notice, or PIN as it is called, is a legal document issued by an OHS Rep in accordance with the provisions of the OHS Act 2004 on their employer or employer's representative.

PINs should be used whenever consultations over an occupational health or safety problem have not been successful.

Remember, for very urgent problems (immediate risks), don't use a PIN but use the emergency

procedures set out in the Act (*Section 74*). As the elected rep you have the right under the OHS Act to direct that work cease in cases of immediate risk.

A rep must consult with the employer prior to issuing such a direction, but can go ahead with it even if the employer does not agree.

In relation to a PIN, a rep must consult with the person to whom the PIN is to be issued prior to the PIN

being issued.

A PIN has a specified period of not less than 8 days before the PIN must be complied with. Should the person who was issued a PIN wish to appeal they may do so by contacting WorkSafe within a seven day period.

If the person does not appeal to WorkSafe, then they must comply with the requirements of the PIN.

A copy of a PIN notice can also be downloaded from the ETU

site under ETU OHS Issues, from the VTHC site, or from Workcover's web site.

Remember that consultation is the key factor. Consultation must occur before a PIN is issued, see Sections 73 and 60 of the OHS Act 2004.

Guidance on issuing PINs can be found on the following VTHC site.

<http://www.ohsrep.org.au/index.cfm?section=12&Category=73&viewmode=content&contentid=537>

## NOISE PROBLEMS AT WORK - GUIDE FOR ASSESSING AND FIXING

WorkSafe have developed a guide in relation to noise.

The "Guide for assessing and fixing noise problems at work" is a 23 page publication which outlines practical noise guidance such as effects on hearing, noise exposure standards and measures to reduce noise. The guide includes a summary of the noise regulations, a "buy quiet" purchasing guide and types of people who can provide audiometric testing. The publication is intended for

employers and workers in any industry that has noise exposure.

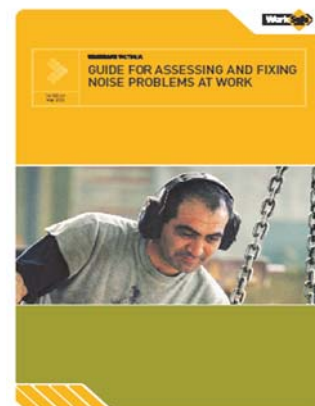
It should be remembered that the current OHS (Noise) Regulations were made in 2004 and reflect the provisions of the OHS Act 1985. The regulations are under review, the same as all of the regulations made under the 1985 OHS Act.

As is noted in the Guide— Please note, after the commencement of the

Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 on 1 July 2005, there may be some minor references to legislation which may need to be updated. This will not affect the validity of the technical advice provided.

WorkSafe did not develop a new Code of Practice when the Noise Regulations were updated to the current 2004 version. This guide reflects the current information. For a copy of the guide go to:-

[www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/publica.nsf/docsbyUNID/B1F6718CFF7A3716CA25701800076078?Open](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/publica.nsf/docsbyUNID/B1F6718CFF7A3716CA25701800076078?Open)



## OHS REPS MEETING DAYS AND TRAINING DAYS

At a recent ETU OHS Committee meeting it was discussed and agreed that from next year 2006 the meeting days would be Wednesdays. This would better utilise the meeting area in the ETU Melbourne Office so that it would not clash with already existing meetings.

Meetings will again occur in rural sectors. It was great to see a turn out at Geelong especially where

the turn out at the meeting in Shepparton was so poor with only one attendee.

OHS Reps need to keep in mind that the meetings are for them to keep up to date with current changes and to discuss issues amongst themselves. Guest speakers attend most meetings so that Reps can hear what is happening and about any

new products being introduced into the workplace. Dates are specified on the front of the monthly OHS Reps Newsletter

The union will again conduct training for OHS Reps, both 5 day initial OHS Rep training and 1 day refresher training.

Dates for 2006 :

5 day training—

Feb 1,2, 7,8,9

May 10, 11,16,17,18

August 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

November 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

Refresher Days—

Feb 15, March 8, April 12, May 9,

June 14, July 11, Aug 8, Sept 12,

Oct 10 and Nov 14.

Contact Tanya at EEIT on 83415555 to book in for training.