



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 87H OF THE GAS INDUSTRY ACT 1994 (the "Act")

Pursuant to section 87H of the **Gas Industry Act 1994** (the "Act") I hereby fix 14 May 1999 as the relevant date in relation to a listing of certain employees of Gascor Pty Ltd, who are engaged in the GCI Consulting International business of Gas services business Pty Ltd and which is to be provided pursuant to section 87I(1) of the Act.

Dated 6 May 1999.

ALAN R. STOCKDALE  
Treasurer and Minister responsible  
for the **Gas Industry Act 1994**

## **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY

### Occupational Health and Safety (Manual Handling) Regulations 1999

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Occupational Health and Safety (Manual Handling) Regulations 1999. Notice is also given of the issuing for public comment under section 8(2) of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985** of the proposed Code of Practice for Manual Handling. The proposed Code will provide practical guidance to people on how to meet their obligations under the proposed Regulations.

Manual handling covers a wide range of activities including lifting, pushing, pulling, grasping throwing and carrying. There are few jobs which do not involve some form of manual handling. Manual handling under hazardous conditions is responsible for a variety of physiological disorders which include: abdominal hernias; back injuries; soft-tissue injuries to the wrists, arms and shoulders; aggravation of circulatory and respiratory disease; and fatigue leading to accidents.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to reduce the number and severity of

musculoskeletal disorders associated with manual handling tasks. The proposed Regulations will also revoke the existing Occupational Health and Safety (Manual Handling) Regulations 1988.

The proposed Regulations will require employers to assess manual handling tasks in the workplace to determine whether there is any risk of a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) occurring, and to adopt appropriate measures to control these risks. In addition, a duty will be placed on employers and self-employed persons who design, import, manufacture or supply products primarily intended for use in a workplace other than their own, to control MSD risks associated with these products before they are provided into that workplace.

The costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations are outlined in the RIS. The RIS demonstrates that the benefits of the proposed Regulations outweigh the costs and concludes that the proposed Regulations will assist in reducing the number of MSD arising from work-related manual handling tasks.

Two alternatives to the proposed Regulations are considered in the RIS. The first alternative involves regulation for the provision of information, instruction and training in the nature of MSD risks associated with manual handling tasks and in the control measures used. The RIS demonstrates that the costs of this alternative would be substantially lower than the anticipated costs of the proposed Regulations. However, the benefits would also be commensurately lower, given the absence of any requirement to actually eliminate or reduce risk of MSD associated with manual handling tasks in the workplace. The second alternative considered involves the use of a Code of Practice with reliance on the general duties under the **Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985**. As compliance with the provisions of a Code is not mandatory, lower levels of compliance may be expected. A Code of Practice therefore is not expected to yield the desired benefits in terms of the reduction in number and severity of work-related MSD, when compared with the proposed Regulations.

The RIS concludes that the proposed Regulations are the most cost-beneficial means of achieving the objective.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations, and the draft Code of Practice. Copies may be obtained by contacting Ms Lois Michael (tele: (03) 9641 1373; fax: (03) 9641 1507) or by writing to:

Manual Handling Regulatory Package  
Senior Manager, Legislative Services Branch  
Victorian WorkCover Authority  
GPO Box 4306  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001.

Any enquiries about the draft Regulations or Code of Practice should be directed to Ms Ros Kushinsky (tele: 9641 1586) or Mr Ross Armstrong (tel: 9641 1598).

Written submissions on the RIS and the proposed Regulations and Code of Practice should be directed to the above address by no later than close of business 15 June 1999. All submissions received will be treated as public documents.

ROGER M HALLAM, MLC  
Minister for Finance  
Minister for Gaming

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