



# Manufacturing industry fixed plant compliance campaign report: phase one

This campaign aimed to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries sustained by workers performing work with or around fixed plant and equipment in the food and metal processing sectors of the manufacturing industry.



## Key issues

Injuries from fixed plant in the manufacturing industry often occur during:

- maintenance
- cleaning activities
- clearing blockages
- power outages.

Workers can be exposed to risks when they take shortcuts or override safety controls. This often happens due to increased production demands during peak periods or when they are doing non-standard or unfamiliar tasks.

Food and metal processing workplaces were the focus for this campaign as they are the most represented in workers' compensation claim statistics compared to other manufacturing industry subsectors in Queensland.



## The campaign

Between April 2017 and July 2018, 111 workplaces were assessed by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) and Electrical Safety Office (ESO) inspectors.

Phase one of the campaign focussed on machine guarding, isolation, lock-out and tag-out (LOTO) and safe systems of work when operating fixed plant and equipment.

Based on injury/incident data from 2016-18 and phase one findings, future actions may include:

- conducting a second phase fixed plant compliance campaign, targeting high-risk manufacturing workplaces—including brick, cement, wood, and glass manufacturing workplaces and workplaces not visited during phase one.
- identifying and assessing other industry types where fixed plant operates
- linking workplaces to **WHSQ's Injury Prevention and Management program** (particularly small to medium size businesses) to improve their fixed plant risk management systems.



## Findings

WHSQ and ESO inspectors assessed 522 items of fixed plant and issued 129 statutory notices to 85 workplaces for not adequately managing fixed plant risks. Most enforcement actions were for failing to:

- perform or comply with isolation and LOTO
- test or conduct maintenance on presence-sensing controls
- comply with permit to work systems
- install or have adequate machine guarding
- provide or comply with safe work procedures.



## Outcomes

As part of the campaign, several workplaces made significant improvements and changes to their processes for managing fixed plant risks, including:

- incorporating the WHSQ self-assessment tool as part of their existing workplace health and safety management system for fixed plant risks
- developing and implementing training and instruction for workers in isolation and LOTO when working with fixed plant
- ensuring sub-contractors conducting after-hours maintenance and cleaning activities with fixed plant are supervised and comply with LOTO procedures
- ensuring permit to work systems are used in areas with high-risk fixed plant
- ensuring adequate guarding is installed to prevent workers contacting moving parts.



## Campaign resources

- Self-assessment-tool
- Work health and safety consultation, co-operation and co-ordination Code of Practice 2011
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace Code of Practice 2013

## More information

For more information visit [WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](http://WorkSafe.qld.gov.au) or call us on 1300 362 128.