EFS
ESSENTIAL FACILITIES SERVICES
AUSTRALIA

Your Trusted Partner For Cleaning, Maintenance, Waste and Security

Work Health and Safety (WHS) in Australian Workplaces, and EFS's commitments to WHS

Work Health and Safety (WHS)

is a significant facet of employment in Australia, and it has endured considerable changes in recent years. This article outlines the current state of Work Health and Safety in Australia, including the legislative framework, the most common workplace hazards, and the steps being taken to improve safety in the workplace, and how EFS is keeping its workplace safe and conducive to work as per the Australian standards.

Legislative Framework:

The WHS Legislative Framework in Australia has five components.
- The WHS Act
- The WHS regulations,
- The codes of practice used to implement the act,
- The standards applied to the act.
- The guidance materials required to help you initiate the act.

In Australia, Work Health and Safety is regulated by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, which is implemented by state and territory regulators. The act delivers a context for managing hazards linked with workplace health and safety and defines the responsibilities of employers, employees, and other stakeholders. The act requires employers to deliver a safe working atmosphere and environment, guarantee that employees are appropriately trained and administered, and discuss with employees on safety matters. Further the WHS regulations were created to support the duties defined in the WHS Act. The safety regulations offer comprehensive requirements, processes, and administrative obligations to support the WHS Act, whereas the Codes of Practice offer businesses a practical guideline to help them comply with the codes and act.
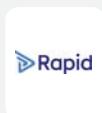
Common Workplace Hazards:

There is a wide range of hazards that can arise in the workplace, with some of the most common including manual handling, falls, electrical hazards, hazardous substances, and stress. The cleaning industry is essential for maintaining clean and hygienic environments in various settings such as offices, schools, hospitals, and public places. However, this industry poses potential hazards to workers, including physical, chemical, and biological hazards. Here are some of the most common workplace hazards in the cleaning industry:
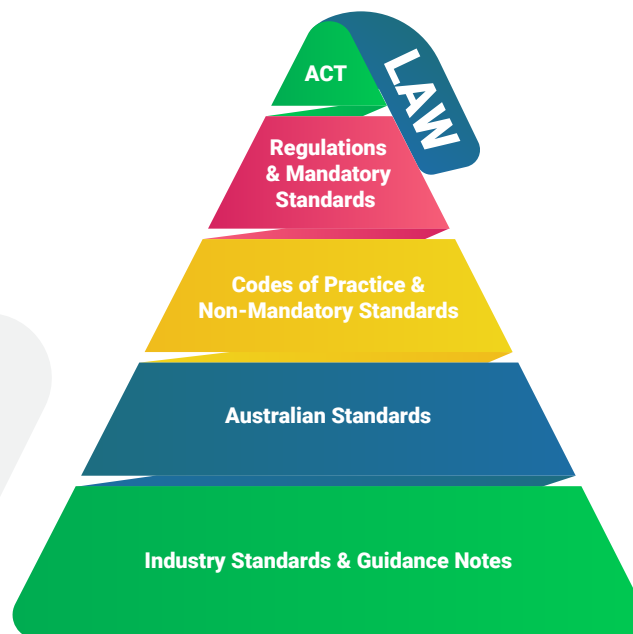
Improvements to Work Health and Safety:

There have been a number of initiatives targeted at improving Work Health and Safety in Australia. These include increased training and education for employees and employers, the development of guidelines and standards for specific industries, and the introduction of new technologies and equipment designed to improve safety. In addition, there has been a larger emphasis on workplace mental health and well-being, with programs and resources aimed at improving employees' mental health.

One of the most significant recent changes to Work Health and Safety in Australia has been the introduction of the Workplace Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022. This strategy sets out a range of targets and objectives; aimed at reducing workplace injuries and illnesses, improving safety culture, and strengthening the legislative framework.

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ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED · GMC GLOBAL MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED · GMC GLOBAL MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

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EFS's commitment to the WHS

EFS, a leading facility management company, strongly believes in the health and safety of its employees. EFS abides by the Legislations and Acts outlined by the Australian Government for WHS and is determined to provide the best available working environment to the employees, where they feel safe and secure. At EFS we ensure that the EFS follows Work Health and Safety Acts, Work Health and Safety Regulations, Code of practices Safe work regulations as outlined by each state or territory.
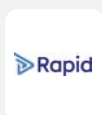
We at EFS put health and safety practices in place as soon as we start our business at any site.
We ensure that we,

- provide a safe work environment.
- provide and maintain safe machinery and structures.
- provide safe ways of working.
- ensure safe use, handling, and storage of machinery, structures, and substances.
- provide and maintain adequate facilities.
- provide any information, training, instruction, or supervision needed for safety.
- monitor the health of workers and conditions at the workplace.

To reduce the potential hazards and protect the safety and health of EFS staff, EFS has a dedicated WHS team that ensures the health and safety of its employees by using and assuring the following.

- Up-to-date Risk Assessment and Management Plans are in place at every EFS Site.
- Up-to-date Safe Work Method Statement (SWM) for every Job description outlining the potential hazards and their controls are in place at every EFS site.
- Staff has been appropriately trained on handling cleaning equipment, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Regular risk assessments have been in place for the employees to identify hazards and implement appropriate controls.
- The staff and employees are getting Regular breaks using proper lifting techniques and practicing good hygiene habits to minimize the risk of exposure to potential hazards.
- Reporting and response system is in place for any potential hazard and EFS strongly believes in and practices back to work policy.

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