



## **CMEIG Media Release**

### **A sound procurement process should lead to selecting safe mobile plant**

The Federal government recently released draft purchasing guidelines titled *Guide to Considering OHS in Procurement* which is hoped to identify OHS considerations in each stage of the procurement cycle of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Tools such as checklists, model contract clauses and templates have been included to assist those involved in procurement to deal with the OHS issues identified.

CMEIG applauds this approach as there is a tendency in some tender documents to ask dealers to supply equipment that does not meet industry best practice for safety, such as lifting lugs on buckets. It may be tempting to win the sale by ignoring company policy requirements and simply complying with the more lax tender requirements. However if there is an accident, both the owner of the equipment and dealer are likely to be found negligent. More importantly, people may be unnecessarily injured.

Whilst it recognised the procurement process should be efficient and transparent, the proposed guidelines refer to pretender consultation with suppliers. However some government departments are utilising the Internet and other electronic media for purchasing which can be more efficient but may compromise safety in terms of compliance to relevant standards and codes of practice.

All mobile earthmoving equipment should be supplied with a risk assessment document, operator manuals (in English), decals and handover instructions from the dealer. This is a cost of supply and should not be treated as an extra or an option in the tender documents.

CMEIG has an active engineering working group that reviews safety incidents and puts forward temporary solutions to minimise the risk of recurring incidents. CMEIG does not want to generate new standards unnecessarily but when new types of quickhitches which failed to meet adequate risk management principles, recently began appearing in Australia, our members prepared a draft standard for Standards Australia to use as a template to develop a minimum standards for the supply of quickhitches.

CMEIG is keen to work with ISO and AS committees to develop new or amended standards but these documents take considerable time to become a standard due to the wider consultation and layers of approval required by these organisations. CMEIG has therefore developed position papers on devices and other issues to provide a stop gap before these safe design requirements can be formally introduced in the Australian regulations. These position papers can be found on the CMEIG web site, for example:

- Fitment of lifting lugs to excavator / wheel loader buckets
- Quickhitches
- Electric devices on asphalt pavers
- Chain shot phenomena

Finally, the procurement process should be the same at all levels of government and across all regions of Australia. “The Council of Australian Governments’ ambitions in February this year to harmonise safety regulations across Australia can’t come soon enough” remarked Paul Torrington, Vice President CMEIG. CMEIG believes that even subtle changes in regulations across borders are inefficient and possibly dangerous especially when plant is being transported across borders and operated in more than one State.

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