

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

1543. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works

I refer the Minister to the April 2003 edition of Safetyline Magazine, pages 14 and 15 relating to Safety and Health Policy in the workplace and ask -

- (a) has the Minister made it a condition of companies tendering for Government contracts that they have an Occupational Safety and Health policy for their workplace; and
- (b) where companies with Occupational Safety and Health policies have successfully tendered for Government contracts, will the Minister and the Department support and adhere to the company's policy during all site visits?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) As from August 2003, to be eligible to contract with the Department for a construction contract that has a pre-tender estimate of more than \$1,500,000, the Contractor must have a current silver or higher Certificate of Achievement under WorkSafe's WorkSafe Plan, or equivalent as approved by WorkSafe, Western Australia. Transitional arrangements are in place until August 2003 and DHW is liaising with WorkSafe and industry to ensure adequate compliance occurs.
- (b) Yes. The responsibility for on-site safety rests with the construction company. All visitors to a construction site have an obligation to comply with the on-site safety procedures. Neither I nor any officers from my Department are excused from this obligation.