

Contractor Safety

Does USQ have obligations under the WH&S Act for things contractors do? Yes!

Under the WH&S Act 2011 obligations are imposed on University of Southern Queensland to ensure that its employees and contractors carry out their work in a safe manner. USQ may own obligations as an employer, person in control of a workplace, the client, principal contractor, project manager & designer.

When contractors are engaged to do work for USQ steps should be taken to ensure that the obligations owned by USQ are reduced as much as possible. An example would be by making the contractor the person in control of the workplace.

Does Contractors have an obligation under the WH&S Act? Yes!

Under the WH&S Act 2011 obligations are imposed on University of Southern Queensland to ensure that its employees and contractors carry out their work in a safe manner.

Contractors may have an obligation under the Act as employer, person in control of the workplace, or a self-employed person. For construction work (building work over \$80,000) they have an obligation as the Principal Contractor if appointed by USQ.

Contractors must also carry out their work in a safe manner without risk to themselves and others.

1. Monitoring and supervising contractor WH&S performance is essential for the Health & Safety of all. While in no way reducing a Contractor's responsibility or liability as an employer for the WH&S of their employees, University of Southern Queensland must ensure that they meet their employer obligations to all employees working on their behalf. To meet these obligations University of Southern Queensland must undertake adequate monitoring and supervision of Contractors;
2. Contractors will need to undertake a WH&S Induction and will need to carry their induction card on them at all times;
3. Contractors must sign in /out on entering and leaving any workplace;
4. Contractors are required to provide a safe place of work and this means following the University of Southern Queensland WH&S policy, procedures and rules unless they have suitable WH&S policy, procedures or are Principal Contractors & have control of the site;
5. Contractors must:
 - Barricade the work site off to protect others;
 - Test & tag their electrical equipment;
 - Use a portable RCD (Safety Switch) at all times;
 - Provide and carry a MSDS with them for any chemicals they use;
 - Use the correct and safe ladder for the task; and
 - Keep the workplace tidy.
6. If you witness a contractor working unsafely, report it immediately to your Supervisor or USQSafe;
7. For high risk construction activities contractors will need to provide a Construction Workplace Plan and relevant Work Method Statements;
8. Contractor's performance, even for a minor job, can be evaluated by using a checklist to conduct spot inspections.

