

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SAFE USE OF BULK SOLIDS CONTAINERS AND FLATBED STORAGE

WHAT ARE THE LAWS GOVERNING THE USE AND MANUFACTURE OF SILOS AND OTHER BULK CONTAINERS?

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* cover the use and manufacture of items of plant, such as bulk containers. Advice on complying with the law is provided in two codes of practice – one for users, the other for designers, manufacturers and importers. These codes of practice apply to the storage of all types of solid material (except coal), at all workplaces except mines.

HOW DO I OBTAIN PRACTICAL ADVICE ABOUT SAFETY WITH BULK CONTAINERS, SUCH AS SILOS?

Advice is provided in two codes of practice – one for users, the other for designers, manufacturers and importers. The codes of practice are the:

- *Code of practice for the safe use of bulk solids containers and flatbed storage including silos, field bins and chaser bins*
- *Code of practice for safety aspects in the design of bulk solids containers including silos, field bins and chaser bins.*

These codes **do not** cover:

- storage of fluids
- storage of less than four tonnes or four cubic metres of material in a container, or less than 40 tonnes in flatbed storage
- containers used for transport by road, rail or air.

WHAT ARE THE RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF LADDERS ATTACHED TO FARM SILOS?

Many ladders on older silos are not suitable and do not provide adequate fall protection. Guidance on appropriate access to silos is provided in the *Code of practice for the safe use of bulk solids containers and flatbed storage including silos, field bins and chaser bins*.

IF I IMPORT SILOS OR OTHER BULK CONTAINERS, WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS THAT APPLY?

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* cover the design and manufacture of items of plant, such as bulk containers. Importers must ensure that the responsibilities of designers and manufacturers are met. Advice on complying with the law is provided in the *Code of practice for safety aspects in the design of bulk solids containers including silos, field bins and chaser bins*.

Import means import into the state of NSW, including import from other states or territories of Australia. If you import a bulk container for your own use, you take on the duties of an importer.

WHAT GUIDANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR ON FARM SILOS, FIELD BINS AND CHASER BINS?

WorkCover's guide, *Checklists for the safe use of silos, field bins and chaser bins on farms* provides checklists that will help farmers determine safety measures that may be necessary.

