



30 November 2020

The Secretariat
Dangerous Goods Act Review
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To the Secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity for Master Builders Victoria (MBV) to provide a submission to the Independent Review of the Dangerous Goods Act 1985 ('DG Act') and associated regulations.

MBV believes that the DG Act and associated regulations should align with the objectives of the OHS Act which aims 'to eliminate, at the source, risks to the health, safety or welfare of employees and other persons at work.' As such, we support enhancing the DG Act and its associated regulations to become more risk-based and prevention focused. A risk-based and prevention focused approach will ensure risks identified are mitigated in the onset to prevent any actual consequences to health and safety in the workplace.

The following are ways in which a risk-based, prevention focused approach can be achieved:

- Requiring WorkSafe to enforce Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS)
- WorkSafe to provide proactive education such as guidance materials to support businesses in understanding how to comply

This should also be coupled with a mix of broad, principle-based duties similarly seen under the OHS Act and can be supported with some prescriptive regulation and guidance materials.

Indeed, aligning the DG Act with that of the OHS Act means quality changes to the health and safety practices on site and prevents the imposition of more unnecessary regulatory burden. Strong focus towards facilitating education and training on any changes to the DG Act to industry is vital. Having robust information and awareness campaigns made readily available, specifically for the building and construction industry, will allow greater awareness and understanding among businesses on the legislative changes made so that all sectors can aptly implement the required systems and procedures.

It is vital that health and safety remains a central focus on every building and construction site. This can only be achieved through proactive collaboration, education and training for industry to ensure strong compliance with duties.

We would be happy to discuss any aspects of this letter as you may require.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Casson
Chief Executive Officer