Fixed Plant

Step-by-step – Setting up for safety around the dairy and other fixed plant on your farm

Getting started

- Read through this information pack carefully.
- Complete the Safety Self-Assessment (traffic lights) page.
- Make a list of things to do and set a date to have each thing completed in the Action Plan.
- Set up your Standard Operating Procedures.
- Put a copy with the documents you use to induct new staff.
- Review your maintenance of fixed plant and ensure you have a record of what is done.
- Pick a topic to discuss with staff or family at your next workplace meeting (you should have at least one safety topic each meeting).

Work Health and Safety regulations require that you must assess and manage the risks to health and safety associated with use of any plant. You must:

- identify reasonably foreseeable hazards that could give rise to the risk of an accident.
- eliminate the risk so far as is reasonably practicable.
- if it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the risk, minimise it by implementing control measures in accordance with the hierarchy of control.
- consult, so far as is reasonably practicable, with workers who are (or are likely to be) using the plant.

The regulations require that risk control measures must be:

- fit for purpose,
- suitable for the nature and duration of the work, and
- installed, set up and used correctly.

The regulations require that a person with management or control of plant at a workplace must:

- so far as is reasonably practicable, prevent unauthorised alterations to or interference with the plant.
- take all reasonable steps to ensure the plant is only used for the purpose for which it is designed, unless a competent person has assessed that the proposed use does not increase the risk to health and safety.
- ensure all safety features, warning devices, guarding, operational controls, emergency stops are used in accordance with instructions and information provided.

By law, you are responsible for all the people who operate plant or are bystanders on your farm.

Resources in this section

- Information about safety in relation to fixed plant on dairy farms and your legal obligations.
- Safety Self-Assessment.
- Checklist Appendix B in Managing the risks of plant in the workplace Code of Practice, Safe Work Australia.
- Standard Operating Procedure example set up through ‘Dairy Passport’.

Information and templates provided in this folder are also available at www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farmsafety.

You can edit the templates to suit your farm.