

HEALTH AND SAFETY FACTSHEET



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINE INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Worker Safety

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When you work in a vineyard or winery in South Australia, health and safety laws require the employer (those who pay you directly for your work) to do all they can to make sure your job is safe - that you don't get hurt.

If you do happen to get injured at work, there are also laws that require your employer to pay insurance to help you get back to work. This is called return to work insurance. If you are hurt, the insurance may pay for your medical treatment such as visits to the doctor or paying for medicine, and for your wages until you can work again.

These laws cover all workers, even if you are on a temporary visa.

WHAT YOUR EMPLOYER MUST DO

Your employer must look after your health and safety while you are at work. They must:

- make sure someone shows you how to do your job safely
- make sure there is someone to watch out for you

- not ask you to do anything that needs a special licence, like drive a car, a crane or a forklift if you don't have the correct licence
- have the right tools and equipment for you to do your job safely, and
- give you safety equipment if you need it to do your job.

Safe operating procedures

When there is a risk of getting hurt because of the work that you do, your employer should have a preferred way to do the work safely. Sometimes referred to as a safe operating procedure (SOP), this document reminds workers of what can hurt them and what can be done to minimise the risk of it happening.

For example, to make a job safer, a procedure might require 2 people to lift an object, or for someone to have a license to operate a forklift, or start a job earlier during the summer when it isn't as hot. The procedure may also require you to wear safety equipment.

Where a safe operating procedure exists for a task, you must read it or be told what it says, to

make sure you understand it and can follow it. If you are still unsure ask the person supervising you or a more experienced worker to help you before starting the work.

Safety equipment

At times, safety equipment may be needed when working in a vineyard or winery to make a job safer. Usually it is called personal protective equipment (PPE) and it could be a hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, boots, or ear muffs.

This equipment needs to be in good condition and it should fit you comfortably. You should be shown how to use it and you need to wear and use it properly.

If you think you need something extra to keep you safe, talk to the person supervising you, a more experienced worker or the Health and Safety Representative (HSR) if there is one at your workplace.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

As a worker, the law says there are things that you must do to keep yourself and your fellow workers safe at work. This includes:

- be fit enough to do your job
- do what your supervisor tells you to do as long as it is reasonable - you understand what has to be done and you can do it without hurting yourself or others
- do not use or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at work
- do not do anything that would hurt you or anyone else at work.

If you do not understand what to do at work, you should ask the person supervising you or a more experienced worker for help.

Things at work that could hurt you include:

- using equipment when nobody has taught you how to use it properly
- not wearing or using the right safety equipment (PPE) or not wearing it properly
- taking short cuts
- doing things that take your mind off the job while you are working (like using your mobile phone while you are working).

In South Australia, the law says you have the right to ask questions about the work you have been asked to do and to say no if you are asked to do work that could hurt you. If you are asked to do something that you think may be unsafe, stop and talk to the boss or your supervisor.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions or want to seek advice about this factsheet, please contact SAWIA on **+61 8 8222 9277** or **admin@winesa.asn.au**

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