

WH&S Data Collection

WH&S Data Collection, Insights, and Innovation Program

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Project Description

To achieve the processing plant's vision, the plant has undergone an entire site wide development program to apply WH&S innovation by working toward reducing workplace minor & major injuries and incidents and also working toward reducing Lost Time Injuries and enhancing rehabilitation and return-to-work programs. This will require change the nature of the hazard identification, hazard reporting, risk assessment, control measures and work instructions to apply risk reduction protocols. One of the challenges will be to ensure that those resulting documents are designed in a way to be clear and concise to suit the varying cultural demographics within the labour pool.

This project supported the purchase of equipment and materials relevant to the upgrades required and included data monitoring hardware to enable a relevant and up-to-date WH&S Reporting System. The insights gathered from this project both inform the plant and AMPC as to the various ways to reduce WH&S risk and optimise the use of statistical data across the entire business.

Although the plant is not based in Victoria there is sound publicly available data on the WH&S issues of Victorian based processing facilities compared to other industries/occupations within Victoria. This data comparison is likely to hold a similar comparative truth for Qld based businesses. Workcover Victoria has applied a OH&S risk rating on meat processing that is the 9th highest of the 510 industry classifications, hence in the top 2% most dangerous occupation, with premiums the 12th highest. During 2005-2015 the industry has driven solutions such as operator boning aids and 'safer' bandsaws informed by injury data. At the extreme end of innovation, the industry has driven developments in fully automated lamb, and more recently beef, deboning systems. As such the industry has a history of identifying hotspots and working with global solution providers to develop and implement cost effective solutions.

One of the more difficult aspects of ascertaining the next hot spot to target is obtaining data from more than a single processing facility, mainly due to the perceived confidential nature of this aspect of operating a business. AMPC staff can facilitate this by developing a range of de facto syndicated PIPs with single site processors and thus without breaching any confidentiality, affords an excellent opportunity to undertake a current snapshot of the next safety hotspots to be targeted for innovation solution development, improved training and or process changes.

This project will enable the plant and AMPC to review and compare best practice amongst SME processing plants and identify the next hot topics for safety innovation development and or practice change.

Project Content

The plant identified the following areas of the plant for the monitoring program:

- Enhanced process and practice changes.
- WH&S real-time data collection.
- Innovation & technology applications.
- Risk Assessment and Hazard Control by SWMS and JSA development.
- Strategic insight into WH&S performance.

The project has progressed extremely well over the reporting period. However, the total expenditure has been way above and beyond the original budget, albeit to add value to the original vision and plan.

The following areas were identified to provide a systematic way to continuously improve the desired outcomes and to ensure that the plant remain complicit in achieving a system that has evolved into a systematic, explicit, and comprehensive process for managing safety risks at this establishment.

- Safety responsibilities of managers and middle management have been reviewed and strengthened to align with the safety management System.
- The WH&S team has been complimented by the addition of individuals with the skills and knowledge to develop a stronger and more robust Safety Management System, driven by key stakeholders.
- Policies and processes embedded into everyday production (SWMS, JSA's, SOP's, WI's) outlined the initial need to strengthen documented risk assessment, hazard identification and risk reduction.
- Internal mechanisms driven by the WH&S system have improved safety performance and reduced lost time injury statistics.
- Constructive change and improvements to workplace consultative strategies have greatly improved input and feedback from all departments and workplace personnel. "Positive in, Positive out".
- Improvements made to systems, processes, training, communication, equipment and assets during this project have allowed workplace personnel to physically see the strengthening of the plant's vision of a positive safety culture.

Continual Improvement has been the key to the ongoing development and control of work health and safety and WH&S systems.

Benefit for Industry

The benefit for industry derived from this AMPC project is the provision of real-time data and analysis of establishment WH&S information for comparison within industry:

- Strategic insight into WH&S performance.
- Real-time data capture and statistical analysis.
- Industry WH&S performance comparisons.