

# WorkSafe ACT

## DFO Workers' Compensation Audit

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Work Safety Commissioner, Mark McCabe, has announced that inspectors from WorkSafe ACT will soon visit stores at Canberra's DFO retail centre as part of an audit of employer compliance with responsibilities under the *Workers Compensation Act 1951*.

WorkSafe ACT workers' compensation inspectors will conduct the audit over two weeks in September 2010.

“In the unfortunate situation where employees are injured at work, workers' compensation is the form of insurance that provides medical care and other benefits for those employees,” said Mr McCabe.

“In the ACT, it is compulsory for all employers to have a current ACT workers' compensation policy in place.

Mr McCabe said that, during the audit, inspectors will focus on four key areas of compliance under the Act:

- does the employer hold a compulsory workers' compensation insurance policy?
- does the employer have a Register of Injuries?
- does the employer display an Information Summary?
- does the employer display a Return-to-Work Program?

“Inspectors will visit each of the 123 businesses in the DFO retail centre.

“Prior to the audit workers compensation inspectors, together with an education officer, will give a presentation to businesses at the DFO. The presentation will give employers the opportunity to ask questions about their obligations under the legislation before the audit commences.

“Business operators at the DFO will have been given ample notice of the audit as well as information on their obligations, including the presentation evening.

Breaches of the workers' compensation legislation detected during the audit will attract Infringement Notices with fines of up to \$6,250,” Mr McCabe said.

“Furthermore, non-compliant employers can be issued with a *cease business notice* and/or fines of up to \$137,500 under section 147 of the Workers Compensation Act.

All employers should make themselves familiar with their workers' compensation obligations. Information and guidance material can also be obtained from the WorkSafe ACT website.

“WorkSafe ACT operates on a program of "engage, educate and enforce" to encourage compliance by industry, and the community, across legislation administered by the office. Workers' compensation audits are, therefore, just one of several types of audits undertaken by WorkSafe ACT as part of its on-going compliance program.

“As part of our education role we do, on occasion, advise industries that we are conducting an audit such as the one we are undertaking with DFO businesses. Employers should be aware, however, that audits can be undertaken at any time and in any industry, without advance warning,” Mr McCabe concluded.