



Celebrating 21 Years!

Labourco NEWS

July/August 2007
www.labourco-op.com.au

Welcome to another edition of **Labourco NEWS** for 2007!

Winter is almost over but the flu has hit hard both in our offices and out on the job. If you are one of the unfortunate people



to suffer from the flu please phone your local Labourco office as soon as possible to let us know that you will be unavailable for work. Obviously it may be too late for this winter but the flu vaccination could be something to consider for next winter.

The main focus of this newsletter is to highlight the dangers of what we sometimes perceive to be small cuts and scrapes. Small cuts and scrapes can occur in the workplace where germs are prevalent turning a small cut or scrape into an illness that will keep you off work for a lengthy time. Read up on the first aid treatment and the signs of infection.

Also in this edition we again focus on the WorkCover changes. It is most important that Labourco obtains a photocopy of your updated licence to be able to keep you placed in work. Please visit your Labourco Branch as soon as your licence is updated so this can be done. If you have any questions regarding the WorkCover changes please call your local Labourco Branch.

Tetanus or "Lockjaw"



Tetanus or "lockjaw" is a serious infection of the nervous system, caused when tetanus bacterial spores are introduced into the bloodstream by puncture wounds, animal bites, gunshot wounds, cuts or fractures.

The toxin acts on the motor nerves and causes severe muscle spasms – most frequently in the jaw and facial muscles.

The disease can be treated with an antitoxin or human immune globulin, but can be prevented by immunisation if done before any injury occurs.

Don't ignore Cuts and Scrapes.....

Most of us get cuts and scrapes at one time or another while doing our jobs, and much of the time we just shrug them off and keep on working.

However, even small cuts and abrasions require immediate attention before a problem develops that you won't be able to ignore – a life threatening infection or illness that could keep you off work for a long time, or even kill you.

It's surprising how many people still get infections from untreated wounds, considering the availability of first aid supplies that all companies have on hand and that are found in every supermarket.

Many of us know someone who developed a serious infection that started with a small cut. Despite this knowledge we often let minor wounds go without any treatment at all. If an infection keeps you off the job, your decision to ignore the wound will have been a mistake.

The two most common infections resulting from small harmless looking cuts and abrasions are tetanus and septicemia.

Preventing these problems in the first place is the best decision you can make. If you do get cut, don't wait until break time or until you get home to take care of it. This is a critical factor.

First aid treatment includes:

1. Don't breathe on the wound and never put your mouth over a cut. Your mouth harbours germs that can infect the wound.
2. Don't touch the cut with your fingers, unclean hankies or other soiled materials.
3. Immediately clean the wound and surrounding skin with soap and warm water, wiping away from the wound, and apply an antiseptic solution or ointment.
4. Hold a sterile pad firmly over the wound until the bleeding stops, remember to replace the sterile pad and bandage as needed to keep the pad clean and dry.

If you decide not to seek medical treatment, keep an eye on the injury for signs of redness or swelling. If this ever occurs, you should see a health professional immediately.

WAY TO GO LABOURCO!



Cost Effective
Staff Selection

Labourco NEWS

- R E M I N D E R - EQUIPMENT LICENCE CONVERSION - WorkCover

This information concerns all workers who have certificates of competency for equipment and licences including (but not limited to) forklifts, cranes, front-end loaders, pressure equipment, scaffolding erection.

The deadline to convert to the new National Certificate of Competency expired on 1st September 2006.

If you have a NSW Certificate of Competency issued before 1997 and did not submit a conversion application before 1st September 2006, you will have to be re-assessed to obtain a new certificate before 31st August 2007.

If you have a pre-29 March 2004 non-photo National Certificate of Competency Licence, WorkCover will contact you and invite you to apply for a National Certificate of Competency photo licence.

Please note: If you have changed address since being issued your licence you will need to contact WorkCover immediately!!! You can visit a WorkCover office or call WorkCover on 131050 and they will send you the Change of Address form.

The pre-29 March licences will expire in March 2009.

Non-photo National Certificate of Competency licences issued after 29th March 2004 will expire 5 years from date of issue.

All National Certificate of Competency issued from 4th September 2006 have been issued with photo identification.

New licences are \$65.00 per class and are valid for 5 years.

To apply for a new National Certificate of Competency or to add a class to your current licence you will need a "Notice of Satisfactory Assessment" issue don or after September 2006. You must supply a passport sized photograph and evidence of your identity.

Applications for a new licence must be lodged at an Australia Post outlet.

Please note: Labourco requires a photocopy of your updated licence to be able to keep you placed in work. Please visit your Labourco Branch as soon as your licence is updated so this can be done.

If you have any questions please call your local Labourco Branch.
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Septicemia or "Blood Poisoning"

Septicemia or "blood poisoning" is an invasion of the bloodstream by bacteria.

It results from an initial infection that the body's defences are unable to control and which spreads throughout the body rapidly, causing a massive progressive infection.

Symptoms include fever, chills, debility and skin eruption.

The condition is usually treated with massive doses of antibiotics.