



30th April 2012

Dear President,

Status of CAMS affiliated car clubs under the new Work Health Safety legislation

You may be aware that some Australian states and territories have recently adopted new safety legislation (the Work Health and Safety Act). The new laws have not yet been adopted in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia or Tasmania but there is commitment to do so.

There has been some discussion in the media about how the new legislation affects volunteers and clubs, and whether it imposes duties on club members that could result in criminal prosecutions.

CAMS is currently reviewing the legislation in order to assist clubs, club employees and club members who work for the club to understand the extent of coverage and will advise further in due course. In the meantime, we note that the new legislation is similar to laws which already exist and will continue to exist in some parts of Australia. For the most part, the new Act does not impose any further obligations on volunteers than already existed and as such is not cause for alarm but more an opportunity for CAMS and its affiliated clubs to review their safety policies and practices to ensure that they represent best practice all across Australia.

CAMS is currently in the process of updating our Safety First strategy and OHS policies following the impending introduction of the new Work Health and Safety Act across much of Australia. Further information about this, and in particular what it means for clubs conducting CAMS sanctioned motor sport events will be made available to clubs over the coming months.

CAMS' responsibilities

CAMS wants to assist clubs and club members to understand what the new legislation may mean for them. The legislation obliges CAMS to eliminate, and if that is not possible, to reduce risks to health and safety to people working for CAMS and to other people whose health and safety may be put at risk by CAMS activities.

CAMS aims to lead safety in motor sport, and that requires a commitment to safety from the CAMS Board, from CAMS employees and officials and from those in clubs who play such an important role in conducting CAMS licensed events.

The role of clubs and individuals

As you are aware, CAMS requires clubs who are conducting events under a licence, permit or authority from CAMS to comply with CAMS's safety requirements as well as with the CAMS National Competition Rules. You would be familiar with these obligations and the CAMS safety system and more detail about what may be required by CAMS given the new legislation will be included in the revised OHS Policy and updated Safety First strategy.

In our efforts to help you better understand your obligations, CAMS is also waiting on information from the Australian Sports Commission and the new national regulator, Safe Work Australia, on how the laws specifically impact on sports at different levels and what sporting organisations need to do in response.

In the meantime you are welcome to consult the material at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au and to contact your own state or territory's safety regulator (usually called WorkSafe or WorkCover) if you have any concerns.

We will continue to keep you informed of future developments.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Morgan', written in a cursive style.

David Morgan
CEO
Confederation of Australian Motor Sport