

Message: DOC/17/4814

From: [Deb Andrei \[SMTP:dropofthehatrms2014@yahoo.com.au\]](mailto:Dropofthehatrms2014@yahoo.com.au)
To: [CBOS info \(DoJ\) \[SMTP:CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au\]](mailto:CBOSinfo@justice.tas.gov.au)
Cc:
Sent: 13/01/2017 at 3:20 PM
Received: 13/01/2017 at 3:21 PM
Subject: Quad Bike Safety Suggestions

13 January 2016,

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Quad Bike Safety and Suggestions

I used to be a Safety Coordinator for many years as well as taking on a contract with the Department of Justice as a Workplace Inspector under the previous legislation.

Whilst I'm studying at Uni I am taking any survival job I can get my hands on which is either farming or agricultural picking jobs.

I am infuriated by how farms employing 12 to 300 backpackers and some locals have no safety what so ever. I am also infuriated by how backpackers say "the only reason why locals aren't offered work is because they know their rights"

Yes, I could dob in my ex employers into the Department of Justice, however at the end of the day I need to make a living and put food on the table too! And why should it always be me that sees things that other people don't or choose not to.

So thus, I am taking a helicopter approach to outline what needs to be done to make things right.

Recently I was working on a Dairy Farm the farmer had his 7 year old son teach me how to ride a quad bike, no helmet was supplied (I supplied my own), the quad bike was ridden on the public road, had no roll bars and was often overloaded with large buckets of milk. Since leaving this position a worker has had 3 accidents whilst riding the quad bike without a helmet, the last accident happened a couple of weeks ago when the quad bike was overloaded with rocks and lost balance and rolled, temporarily injuring the worker. I have spoken to the worker about his rights, his obligations and his employers obligations though he is afraid of loosing his job if he says anything.

Two years ago I was working on a large berry farm which employed 200 backpackers to pick berries. No inductions were given to these

workers,
workers rode quad bikes without helmets in a standing upright position.
This farm also allowed workers to work up high, on old, antiquated, rusted cherry pickers to adjust tunnels. The back packers did not have any Working At Heights Tickets or High Risk Work Tickets.

Workers riding quad bikes on large farms often work in isolation, don't have mobile reception and do not carry a two way radio with them.

I have seen a farmer on Kimberly Road towing a boat on a trailer at the back of his quad bike! This same farmer carried a motor vehicle in forks of his tractor on a public road going around a tight bend, it is only due to pure luck that he did not run into me whilst I was driving my motor vehicle.

A majority of the Quad Bikes I see ridden on public roads are not registered, if they are not registered then it is likely they aren't insured.

What Needs To Be Done!

* Just as the Construction Industry has a "White Card" which is valid for 2 years, every worker working on a farm, orchard, dairy or large nursery should also have to sit a face-to-face Induction and pay for a 2 year card.

* Supervisor's and Farm Managers should also be required to take this Induction to obtain the 2 year card.

* The Induction should include Quad Bike Safety - the differences between quad bikes and mules (Pollaris's), Load Ratings, Chain Saw Safety, Working at Heights, High Risk Work, Chemical Safety, Understanding of a workers right to stand down if the job is not safe, Understanding of current Acts, Regulations and Standards; Working alone, Working in the heat, Confined Space, Awareness of Dangerous Animals and Insects, Working in and around Mobile Plant (forklifts, trucks, tractors and slashers), Reporting Accidents and Injuries.

* All farms, orchards, nurseries and dairies should have roll bars fitted to their quad bikes.

* Quad bikes definitely should not be used for carting rocks and large buckets of milk! Use the right tool for the right job and stick within the load ratings.

* Farmers should be given a sign off book to which a worker needs to

be
given so many hours of training before they are deemed competent to
ride
a quad bike on their own.

* Quad Bikes and Pollaris's and other types of mechanical mules must
be
registered and insured when being driven on a Public Road.

* Law needs to be put into place stating that a helmet must be worn
when riding a quad bike. As a rule the farmer, farm manager should
supply 3 sized helmets with hygienic detachable inserts for their
workers to use.

* The Government needs to increase the numbers of Government
Inspectors
over high harvest, high milking and calving seasons to make sure that
Farmers and their Managers are keeping their workers safe.

Regards

Debra Andrei