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From: Ken Barnard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 December 2015 12:45 PM
To: SI Feedback
Subject: Review of the NSW self-insurer licensing framework

Dear SIRA,

As a retired WokCover NSW Safety Inspector, 1989 to 2007, I believe that workplace safety is a very important compliance activity in ensuring a safe place of work for NSW workers and their families.

From my experience in investigating many many accidents including fatalities a large proportion of those could possibly have been avoided if the employer had been more proactive in their work place safety activities. Some of those accidents including two fatalities that I am aware of occurred at organisations that are and were at the time self-insured. I further believe without the ongoing compliance of workplaces including self-insurers those incidents would be much higher in number

I support the current self-insurer licensing framework. I support the current regulatory monitoring of Self-Insurers, in particular NAT auditing by the Regulator. Regarding NAT audit frequencies, I support the current 3 year audit frequency for those Self-Insurers that meet the benchmarks and annual audits for Self-Insurers that don't meet the benchmarks as to change this would potentially compromise workplace safety

From my experience allowing organisations to self-regulate, even in part, is a failure without employers being held to account by compliance by the regulator

If you would like to discuss this submission further please contact the writer

Yours In Workplace Safety
Ken Barnard (retired WC NSW Senior Safety Inspector)
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