

Australian Capital Territory

Work Safety (National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Falls in Housing Construction) Code of Practice 2010

Disallowable instrument DI2010 - 237

made under the

Work Safety Act 2008, section 18 (Codes of Practice)

Explanatory Statement

Section 18 of the *Work Safety Act 2008* provides that the Minister may approve a code of practice to provide practical guidance about the Act. Section 18(2) provides that before approving a proposed code of practice, the Minister must consult with the ACT Work Safety Council. At its 3rd meeting on 18 June 2010, the Council noted that approval would be sought to have the National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Falls in Housing construction notified as a Code of Practice in the ACT.

The Code provides guidance to prevent injury and illness to persons working at heights in Housing Construction. It sets out practical guidance on adopting a risk management approach to fall prevention at heights of less than 2 metres, as well as guidance on risk assessment processes, preparation of Safe Work Method Statements and examples of physical fall prevention measures that are required when working at heights of 2 metres and above, as far as is reasonably practicable.

A person conducting a business or undertaking, a person in control of a construction site, a designer, manufacturer or supplier of places of work or of items for use in a workplace, a health and safety representative, an OHS professional, a worker or anyone else with a duty to prevent people falling while undertaking Housing Construction will implement the recommended procedures for managing the risks that arise from performing work at heights.

The objects of the Code are to assist in reducing the incidence and severity of injuries to workers from falls whilst working, and to reduce injury costs.

Following the Code could produce benefits that include-

- improved business performance, efficiency and productivity;

- fewer workers' compensation claims, which may lead to lower premiums;
- faster and easier return to work for workers who do sustain an injury;
- fewer absences from work, and less disruption;
- retention of skilled workers; and
- a safe workplace with a positive safety culture.

This instrument takes effect on 1 October 2010.

An approval under section 18 (1) is a disallowable instrument.