



Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association (Victoria) Inc. Managing Contractor Safety

Why is the safety of subcontractors such an issue?

Contaminated Land Consultants often engage subcontractors who carry out high risk activities:

- Drilling contractors
- Excavation contractors
- Remediation contractors

Also, clients have an expectation that we will manage the safety of the project, including any contractors we engage directly.



What Does The Law Say?

Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, Section 21

Duties of Employers to Employee

- (1) An employer must, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide and maintain for employees of the employer a working environment that is safe and without risks to health.
- (3)(a) reference to an employee includes a reference to an independent contractor engaged by an employer and any employees of the independent contractor

Things you can do to help manage the safety of your subcontractors

- Evaluate the contractor's health and safety systems prior to engagement. The evaluation could include evidence of:
 - training of personnel
 - equipment maintenance
 - hazard analysis processes.

- Convey clear safety expectations to the subcontractor, including in written scope of work and engagement instructions.
- Coordinate the project specific H&S plan with the contractor well before field work begins to assure the correct PPE and staffing are available.
- Hold an effective tool box meeting on a daily basis before work commences.
- Discuss the contractor's Job Safety Analysis (JSAs) for their work.
- Order work to stop if unsafe practices are observed.

Most important tool for managing subcontractors is effective communication



“Be an example in regard to safe behavior”

If you have a Safety “Lesson Learned”, good ideas, or other safety information of general interest to consultants or contractors working in the contaminated land industry, please contact Louisa Nicholls of ACLCA (Vic) Inc at www.aclca.org.au. Information will be circulated without naming names or places (unless you specifically want us to).

Disclaimer - This alert is provided to raise awareness of an important safety issue. It does not replace the need for member companies to review and manage their specific risks.