

October 2023

ARE REVERSING BEEPERS COMPULSORY?



National
Safe Work
Month

Crisis vs
Emergency

Benchmarking
Survey
Last Chance

What's new in October?

Are Reversing beepers compulsory on delivery trucks? Can they be turned off when nearby residents complain about the noise?

Also this month

- Why we need a Crisis Management and Emergency Plan.
- National Safe Work Month.
- What's Wrong with this sign?
- Body Worn Camera's for SA Safety Inspectors.
- Andrea discusses DG Storage at Southern Safety Group's monthly meeting.



Gary Rowe

Stay Safe!

Safety Webinar – 13th October 2023

We invite you to join us at **10am on Friday 13th October** for our free monthly webinar to keep you up to date on workplace health and safety. Gary and the team present short informal sessions of only 20 to 30 minutes on topical issues and answer your questions.

[Register here](#)

Missed our last webinar? View them [here](#)

SAFETY ACTION TEAM



Andrea Rowe



Stephen Weber



Katie Weber



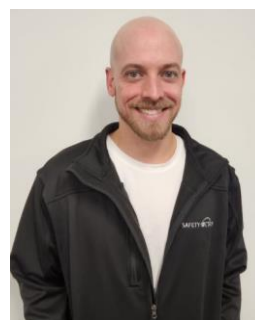
Sarah Oliver



Sue'Ellen Bennett



Vivek Ravi



Nick Bennett



Theodore

Are Reversing BEEPERS Compulsory?

A reader recently asked if reversing beepers are compulsory on their delivery trucks, and are they allowed to turn them off when nearby residents complain about the noise?



Trucks reversing up to a loading dock.

Neighbours complaining about noise from commercial operations is not uncommon, particularly when many deliveries are made out of normal business hours.

Local council staff will likely take increasingly stronger action as they seek to enforce “zero noise at the boundary”, in order to minimise complaints from their residents.

Below is a summary of the legal requirements for warnings while reversing.

ADRs Do Not Mandate Reversing BEEPERS

The Australian Design Rules (ADRs) for vehicles sold in Australia do not mandate audible reversing alarms, but do specify minimum performance requirements for when they are fitted eg they have to be loud enough above background noise.

New Reversing ADRs from 2025

From 1 November 2025 all new vehicle and truck models will have to be fitted with reversing cameras and motion sensors, and new vehicles of existing models will have to comply with this by Nov 2027.

Current Reversing BEEPERS Too Loud and Project Sound Everywhere

Most reversing beepers are deliberately louder than they need to be, as the manufacturer’s appear to believe louder is safer, and want to be sure they comply with the requirement of beeper to be heard above background noise.

Existing reversing beepers also project the sound “360 degrees” around the truck, which is annoying to everyone not behind the truck, where the warning is needed.

New Squawker Type Beepers Quieter

Some trucking companies have changed over to “Squawker” type beepers, which automatically adjust to only 5-10 decibels (dB(A)) above ambient noise levels, and have a deeper lower sound while maintaining safety standards.



A squawker type reversing beeper.

According to one squawker supplier, [Vhedia](#), squawker beepers only direct their lower sound into the hazard zone at rear of the truck. They say, “you only hear it if you need to”.

Conclusions:

- 1) Fitting reversing beepers is not a legal requirement of the current ADRs, but when fitted must be effective eg be audible above the background noise.

Note: Workplace safety regulations may require a risk assessment and measures to protect people behind reversing plant or vehicles, but reversing beepers are not mandated.

- 2) It is potentially dangerous to allow safety devices, like reversing beepers, to be turned off at the driver’s discretion, as it is more likely they will be left off when they are really needed, or forgotten and left off permanently.
- 3) Most reversing beepers are too loud and project the sound all around the vehicle, and too much sound can confuse people in hazard zone.
- 4) New Squawker type reversing beepers are much quieter and direct the lower sound only to the rear of the truck. If adopted, Squawker type beepers might reduce or eliminate noise complaints and allow delivery firms to maintain their policy of not turning off the beepers, until new technology eliminates the need for them.

- 5) Reversing beepers are not effective in all circumstances and do not guarantee the safety of people in the danger zone behind the vehicle eg deaf, drunk or drug affected vagrants at loading dock unlikely to act or quickly enough.



- 6) A higher level of safety is achieved when the driver can see and be warned of people or objects when reversing and stop eg reversing cameras and sensors, as opposed to reversing beepers requiring people to hear and jump out of harm's way in time.
- 7) Moving forward it is likely the new ADRs from 2025 & 2027 mandating reversing cameras and motion sensors will replace the need or desire for reversing beepers, and the world will be a quieter and more pleasant place for everyone.

2023 Safety Benchmarking Survey Last Chance: Closes 10th October

Participate in our 2023 Safety Performance Survey. All information is kept confidential and participant organisations receive a free copy of the full report.

PARTICIPATE NOW

Click here to complete the survey now.

**As always, all information provided is confidential and only used for this benchmarking.*

What's Wrong With This Sign?



Join us at our webinar on the 13th of October for the answer.

**Register for our
webinar here**



National Safe Work Month



The primary objective of National Safe Work Month is to encourage individuals and organisations to prioritise safety in their workplaces and work towards reducing the number of work-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

Being healthy and safe means being free from physical and psychological harm. A safe and healthy workplace benefits everyone.

Safe Work Australia have put together a range of resources to promote safety in your workplace available [here](#).

Host a SafeTea chat this National Safe Work Month

SafeTea emphasises the important of involving everyone in WHS discussions by encouraging workplaces to grab a cuppa and have a safety chat.

Follow these steps and plan a SafeTea chat at work:

1. [Download resources](#), including:
 - [SafeTea](#) and [SafeTradie talk checklist](#)
 - [Tearoom poster](#)
 - [Conversation starter dice](#)
 - [SafeTea](#) and [SafeTradie](#) posters
 - [SafeTeams video call background](#)
 - A co-brandable [SafeTea](#) and [SafeTradies](#) social tile, and
 - [Printable decorations](#)
2. Follow SafeWork Australia on [social media](#) to keep updated with new information and materials.
3. Share your photos using the hashtags **#SafeTea** **#SafeWorkMonth**. The best ones will feature in their people's choice LinkedIn showcase!

If Tea is not your thing, plan a safety themed:

- SafeTradie or toolbox talk.
- SafeTeam event.
- SafeTeams virtual catch up.

Crisis Vs Emergency Management

Planning to Survive by Stephen Weber

If a bush fire is active near one of your sites at what point does your organisation trigger an evacuation? Who is authorised to make that decision? How does your organisation co-ordinate the communication and logistics of such an event? More importantly, how does that all get done before the situation escalates to a disaster?

Many organisations are comfortable in dealing with emergency situations and ensuring their safe and appropriate management. We have evacuation plans and drills, first aiders, fire wardens, emergency plans etc but we often find that they lack a clear understanding of what constitutes a Crisis and incorrectly assume its just an expansion of either normal business practices or emergency responses and fail to have adequate systems, processes, resources and organisational knowledge to allow for effective management of these rare but critical events.

What is a Business Crisis?

A business crisis is an event, or a series of events, that causes major disturbance for a business or puts its stability at risk. A crisis typically occurs suddenly and poses intense difficulty or danger for the business, usually in a situation where time is short and decisions have to be taken quickly. These dilemmas can either originate internally or they can be brought on by external influences. The problem affecting the business, if not appropriately managed, can escalate to the point where it's out of the company's control and may permanently damage the business or cause it to fail.



Comparatively an emergency can be defined as an event, actual or imminent, which endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment, and which requires a significant and coordinated response.



the focus on long-term impact.

When it comes to addressing these situations emergency management is primarily operational in nature, focusing on support to first responders and transition to immediate recovery. Crisis management is more strategically oriented, with the principal actors being high-level officials and

Crisis Management

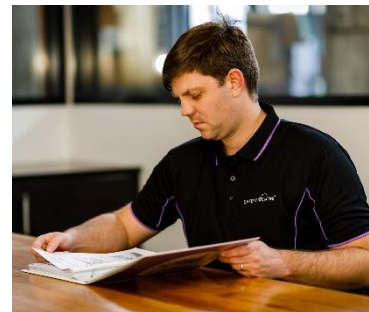
Crisis management involves implementing policies and procedures to defend, mitigate and prevent a crisis. Ultimately, crisis management is designed to protect an organization and its stakeholders from threats and/or reduce the impact felt by threats. It is a process designed to prevent or lessen the damage a crisis can inflict on an organization and its stakeholders.

Crisis management plans are a documentation of the strategies to guide an organization on how to deal with these sudden and significant negative events, while maintaining business continuity.

A Crisis Management Plan should include, but not limited to:

- What threats/situations an organisation considers to be a Crisis e.g. does a single fatality count as a crisis? What level of media attention? Is a bush fire or flood a crisis or part of local emergency processes? Etc.
- Identify who will take action and what their roles will be.
- Explain How decisions are made during the crisis unique to normal operations.
- How to call an end to the threat and return to normal business operations.

Safety Action has helped a number of organisations build and test their Crisis management response to ensure they are ready to deal with these critical threats when they arise We are here to help you determine how ready you are to manage these situations and ensure the smooth continuation of your organisation.



Contact Safety Action on 03 8544 4300 or via [email](#) for us to assist you with your Crisis Management Plan today.



SA Safety Inspectors use Body Worn Cameras

Safety inspectors in South Australia are authorised to use body worn camera's (BSWs) from September as part of their operational equipment.

The use of BWCs are intended to:



- Support the safety of Inspectors by encouraging safe and mutually respectful interactions.
- Reduce disputes and enable complaints to be easily investigated and resolved by reviewing relevant footage.
- Support transparency and accountability for Inspectors while administering their duties and exercising their powers.

For the full article and more information visit [SafeWork SA](#).

Southern Safety Group

Dangerous Goods Storage by Andrea Rowe

Monday 30th October 3pm to 5pm

Come to the Southern Safety Group meeting on the 30th October. Andrea shares, from her experiences of seeing some of Victoria's best and worst workplaces, key requirements for Dangerous Goods (DG's) storage and some compliance items often overlooked.

Andrea was recently an expert witness for WorkSafe for a DG's prosecution. For the outcome and more information see [here](#).



**Monthly Meetings are held at Springers Leisure Centre, Cheltenham Rd
Keysborough, Vic from 3pm to 5pm**

More information and contact SSG [here](#).



DON'T LEARN ABOUT SAFETY BY ACCIDENT

Southern Safety Group (not for profit) exists to provide members with quality, relevant and practical advice on workplace OH&S issues.

Important Dates



World Congress for Safety and Health Sydney 2023

“Digital transformation and the Human Factor in Machine and System Safety: Opportunities and Risks”

Safety Action’s Andrea Rowe joins speakers from all over the world at this year’s World Congress for Safety and Health. Andrea will be discussing Robotics and Cobots.



The conference is on from the 27th – 30th November 2023 in Sydney, Australia.

For more information and to register click [here](#).



RIDE2WORK

National Ride2Work Day

Wednesday 18 October 2023

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Two thirds of Australians don’t get enough exercise to maintain their health. At the same time our cities are full of traffic. It is affecting climate change and costs us billions each year.

By swapping the car, train or bus for a bike you can get your daily exercise for both your physical and mental health without needing to spend extra time or money at the gym.

