



WorkCover NSW

SafeWork

A W A R D S

2009 SafeWork Awards Presentation Booklet

CATEGORY 2

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Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

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WorkCover NSW leadership safety award

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Thank you to all the 2009 SafeWork Awards entrants

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Category 2

Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

This award recognises excellence in developing and implementing a solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue. Entries for this award may include a product solution, engineering innovation, a training program, an awareness raising activity or other risk control measures that reduce the risk of work-related injury and illness.

Judging criteria

For entry in this category submissions must show the following:

1. (a) What is the workplace health and safety issue?
(b) What was the solution implemented to address the issue?
2. What form of risk management system or process was used to identify the issue?
3. How was the hierarchy of control applied to develop the solution?
4. How effective was the solution for the control of the identified hazard?
5. To what extent was the solution developed in consultation with workplace parties and, if appropriate, outside organisations?
6. How original and innovative was the solution?
7. How well did the solution impact on the overall operations of the company?
8. Has there been a demonstrated improvement in health and safety in the workplace as a result of the solution? (Provide claims or incident/injury data and any other occupational health and safety reporting as evidence.)
9. How much potential is there for the solution to have broader application across industry?

Supporting material was supplied to assist in demonstrating claims to the above criteria. This included but was not limited to: *claims and incident/injury data and other OHS reporting information.*

Winner

Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

Rotacaster Wheel Limited (The Junction)

rotacaster™

Rotacaster Wheel Limited is an Australian owned and operated company that manufactures the only multi-directional wheel in Australia. The wheel is mounted in a fixed position and provides a wealth of OHS benefits when used in hand carts, trolleys, hand trucks, dollies and other custom applications.

Initiative

Throughout various industries hand trucks are used to assist in handling heavy or awkward loads. There are a number of risks associated with hand trucks, including the frequent lifting of heavy items, substantial effort required for leverage on kerbs, and balancing the load while travelling.

Newcastle resident and managing director of Rotacaster Wheel Ltd. Peter McKinnon, invented the Rotatruck after recognising the hazards associated with conventional hand trucks. With a background in construction, Peter designed the self-supporting Rotatruck to reduce user effort and the risk of strain injuries.

The hand truck is mounted with durable Rotacaster wheels, that provide 360 degree manoeuvrability as well as the stability of fixed mounting. The device supports the user's load, meaning operators do not need to carry or balance any weight.

The ergonomic design removes the need to reverse over kerbs and obstructions allowing users to lever loads rather than lift them – keeping hands free for removing hazards. The invention also reduces the pull back effort required when changing from the loading to transporting position, and allows the user to move directly sideways or rotate on the spot in confined spaces such as cool rooms and lifts.

Rotatruck has eliminated many of the manual handling risks associated with hand trucks and has improved the occupational health and safety in many workplaces. The Rotatruck is now being shipped internationally.

