

# Health & Safety Manuals: Are they a Liability?

Have you ever been sold something that had more features than you really needed?

Some Health & Safety systems can be a little like that.

Because the Health & Safety Act tells us what we have to do, but not so much how to do it, the things needed to fulfil an individual business's responsibilities under the Act are often left up to the consultant. And consultants love writing manuals, designing forms, and coming up with systems and processes to cover every possible contingency!

Clients often love getting a nice new Health & Safety manual too! They are usually glossy, thick and heavy, full of all sorts of good technical stuff! Just holding them makes you feel safe!

But did you know, that nothing in the Health & Safety Act says that you need a manual? And when you consider that most people do not read past the first few pages, let alone use all the wonderful forms inside, you have to ask, "What use are they really?"

There is no doubt that most Health & Safety manuals contain some wonderful stuff. The reality is though, that fulfilling your responsibilities under the Health & Safety Act is not about owning a manual.

Health & Safety is all about **doing**, and being able to provide **evidence of doing**. And sometimes, having a glossy, thick, heavy Health & Safety manual can



actually be a liability! Because, if you are not fully aware of all that your manual says you will do (and therefore you are not doing it), you could find yourself being adversely judged by your own system.

The Health & Safety Act requires that all businesses operate their work sites in a safe manner, which would normally require some sort of system involving procedures and record keeping. However, systems do not have to be complicated or paper heavy.

In fact, in industries where the majority of work is site based, and "hands on", such as residential building, a Health & Safety system involving lots of forms, check sheets and writing is probably not going to work too well.

What is needed is a system that allows people on a work site to fulfil their Health & Safety obligations, without a lot of fuss and paper, and then get on with the job.

HazardCo has recognised this need and fulfilled it!

HazardCo packs (containing no manual at all!) provide basic Health & Safety tools for use by workers either on fixed sites, or who move from site to site.

These packs are robust, uncomplicated and practical. And the best part is that they do not contain any more features than what you need.

Contact HazardCo on 0800 555 339 to find out how this system can help you.

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