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## Safety boost to fodder industry thanks to new Victorian telehandler licensing

Telehandler operators - working with large square hay bales - can now undertake specific training for this task and the machine they operate.

And this evolution in training and licensing is set to make the Victorian export hay industry an even safer workplace.

The Victorian Government recently changed telehandler regulations and included in the amendments - which begin on July 1 - is the introduction of a TV licence.

The Australian Exporters Company (AEXCO) worked with the Victorian Government and Worksafe Victoria for the past two years to ensure the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Telehandlers) Regulations were the best fit for Victorian export hay companies and fodder growers.

AEXCO Chairman Mark Heaslip said the development of the TV licence - a Victorian non-slewing telehandler high risk work licence - is an example of government and industry working together. "This new licence is something that makes sense for the Victorian hay industry, a telehandler licence to operate a telehandler," he said.

"The TV licence is an alternative licence option, giving people the opportunity to undertake training that is practical and specific to the potential OH&S risks that come with operating a non-slewing telehandler.

"Specific training and licensing is not only the best way to ensure safe working conditions, it's a great, practical way for telehandler operators to upskill."

Previously - and until July 1 this year - those who operate a non-slewing telehandler with over three tonnes rated capacity, must hold either a CN, C6, C1 or C0 mobile crane high risk work licence. As part of the Government consultation an AEXCO special sub-committee, including Mark Heaslip, Andrew Hayward (JT Johnson & Son's) and Scott Whitmore (Gilmac) provided written submissions and attended Worksafe Victoria Telehandlers Regulations review meetings.

"AEXCO would like to thank the Victorian Minister for Worksafe, Danny Pearson, Worksafe Victoria representatives and the Member of Lowan Emma Kealy for their engagement and support during the Telehandler Regulations review process," Mr Heaslip said.

Introduction of the TV licence was among a number of changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017, including a new definition of telehandler and a new definition for slewing and non-slewing telehandler.

Mr Heaslip said the industry was eagerly preparing for these licensing and training changes. "Victorian export hay companies are already making preparations to organise new TV licence training courses for staff and export hay suppliers in the second half of 2024," he said.

"Worksafe has advised that further information, such as which registered training operations will offer the training, will be communicated in the lead up to July 1 2024, as training providers apply to have the training added to their scope of work and become authorised to conduct assessments."

More information?

Visit [WorkSafe's website](#).