

These notes were taken by Jane Kowald and Jenny West

1. ON FILLING OUT THE AGRICULTURAL AND SAFETY HEALTH CHECKLIST

Try to go through whole checklist with a yes or no. Don't worry about doing the risk rating. Try to go through the whole list twice/year to start with, then drop to annually when you know where your focus is required.

Start with electricity – tag out dangerous electrical items or items not to be used.

Always record what you have done – tag, take a photo or diarise what has been tagged for your records and future proof if required.

Where do we get tags from? Rural suppliers or safety stores – Blackwood online.

2. SILO INSPECTIONS

Inspect for rust outside around the rivets. Check to make sure the ladders aren't rusted. Metal fatigue can be spotted on the outside by rivets failing or bulging, rust down the sides of silos.

- The older style steps are not rated for Australian Standards.
- Are the silo's attached to the ground (wind cyclones)?
- Inspect older silos more often, tag out of use if don't have time to use or not going to use.

2.1. PROOF OF INSPECTION

Make sure each silo is identifiable – record, phone diary or date frame that you have done your inspection.

Silo map person that cleans them out and signs the page. Can use google maps to record the silos.

Field bins – pressures in tyres appropriate for towing. Very old ones don't have adequate guarding underneath them.

2.2. PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

For older style silos where the ladder reaches the ground, you can remove the bottom part of the ladder or fix a board across the bottom of the ladder.

Warning sign or paint pen – 'No unauthorised access' to write on the side of the silo, add to induction new workers.

Do you need to climb the silo? If you do, maintain 3 points of access at all stages. Conduct your own risk assessment to determine if you need to do formal training. Avoid if you can, otherwise do it safely.

3. BUSINESS PARTNER RESPONSIBILITY AND NEW LEGISLATION

Old legislation – gross negligence, new legislation = industrial manslaughter.

Haven't had a case of a partner/business partner/daughter being prosecuted when a fatality occurs. Public perception takes weight when looking at cases. Cases are taken by their merit. Very hard to prove that somebody is sent out deliberately into danger. Look at the knowledge and the ability to have an effect.

When assessing an accident. Have there been breaches of the legislation? Have they been engaged in a work activity at the time? What can we do at the workplace so that any visitor can be safe? Assess the risks and decrease the risk. Be safe, plan things, dot points and document so you can record what you have said.

4. CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Silos are defined as a confined space and are not designed for a human to be in and oxygen levels can be affected. If any part of your head or upper part of your body is in the silo to inspect, clean or conduct repairs then confined space training is required – it is not negotiable. You need one person who has completed the course and one spotter while in the silo. This has become a legal requirement as of March 2022.

There are some companies conducting confined space training and they are prepared to travel if they have sufficient numbers. See WorkSafe WA Confined Spaces Code of Practice.

5. GRAIN AUGERS

Should be mesh on top of the slotted sections – this prevents someone’s body part from getting in. The mesh should be smaller than your hand so you can’t get your hand caught. Guard has to join on to the hopper with a tool. How to put on and not get put back on?
https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/grain_augers.pdf

6. CONTRACTOR INDUCTIONS

Contractor inductions need to be documented.

Induct the main contractor, include safety systems relevant to your business – fire, numbers, speed limits, first aid kits, call signs, smoking, drugs. Ask he gets his employees inducted into your workplace, with full name, date and signature of both parties. Creating a legal document. Can be done a month before, not on the day.

Trying to change the face of safety on your property – these are our business terms – change the face of agriculture for the future.

7. NEXT MEETING

Last Wednesday of February 2023 – 22 February 2023 at 7:30pm via Microsoft Teams.
 Discussing the first four steps of the Agricultural mobile plant and vehicle safety checklist.

All tractors are fitted with a roll over protective structure (ROPS) and in the case of tractors fitted with a front end loader attachment, a fall on protective structure (FOPS).	
A master guard is fitted to the tractor, the power take off (PTO) shaft is guarded and the power input coupling guard is fitted to all PTO equipment.	
Seat belt mounting points are incorporated into the design of the mobile plant and seat belts are fitted and worn by the operators.	
Ensure that manuals (operator’s instructions) for mobile plant are available for persons required to operate each item of mobile plant.	
Log books / maintenance records / pro	