



SafeWork SA

Friday 21 January 2011

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SAFEWORK SA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Safe Work Awards – Harsco Metals

The SafeWork SA Advisory Committee met on 7 December 2010 to reassess the criteria used by a contestant in its application to the 2010 Safe Work Awards.

The Advisory Committee is closely involved in the Awards Programme and represents the interests of Government, Employers and Employees. At that meeting, the Committee asked that the Judging Panel review all information available in relation to the contestant's nomination.

After careful consideration, the Panel has decided to rescind the award presented to Harsco Metals in the category of Private Sector Employer of the Year on the basis of anomalies in the interpretation and presentation of injury claims data made in the award entry.

Harsco Metals was fully co-operative with requests for further information and explained its interpretation and recording of Lost Time Injuries, however the Judging Panel was of the opinion that Harsco's methodology in representing injury claims data was inconsistent with what is in general use throughout South Australia.

Whilst the situation is deeply regrettable, the integrity of the Safe Work Awards is paramount and successful entrants must clearly demonstrate to the Panel that they have met the judging criteria to the highest possible standards.

In order to avoid such confusion in future, the judging criteria will explicitly state the preferred means of interpreting and presenting injury claims data for all award entrants.

As part of an annual review, the Award categories and the judging process will also be examined.

Notwithstanding this development, the Judging Panel remains convinced that Harsco Metals is committed to improving its OHS outcomes, and is working hard to improve safety management systems given the extremely hazardous nature of its work.