

## Latest News

### Construction guide aims to develop nationally consistent safety approach

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The Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation has produced a new safety guide to help construction companies nationwide develop a consistent approach to safety.

The guide is designed to be used by both large and small employers as a step-by-step tool to address individual and organisational needs in terms of safety culture and safety management development.

The CRCCI says the construction industry, which accounts for nine per cent of the Australian workforce, has the fourth highest fatality rate across all industries and twice the national average.

It says that this is partly due to ongoing movement of subcontractors and workers between employers, projects and sites, which makes it difficult for any individual employer to consistently influence the attitudes and behaviours of the workforce.

Additionally, it says, there is a lack of consistent industry-wide understanding of the meaning of safety competency.

The CRCCI's [Construction Safety Competency Framework](#), and the safety guide, [A Practical Guide to Safety Leadership](#), aim to address this situation.

The safety guide is based on an eight-step process which the CRCCI says will better equip employers to implement a safety culture in their respective organisations. The report provides practical information and examples to help employers better understand how to implement each step.

The eight steps cover:

- identifying safety critical positions within the organisation;
- customising and adapting competency specifications and requirements to the organisation;
- planning how to use the material for training, education, development, performance management and recruitment;
- implementing the strategy using a 'small steps' approach; and
- evaluating to ensure continuous improvement.

For each step the guide outlines why the step is important, how it can be implemented by the employer, and provides case studies to demonstrate how employers have implemented the competency framework in the past.

[Construction Safety Competency Framework](#)

[A Practical Guide to Safety Leadership](#)