

# media release



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## **Master Builders backs Victorian Government call for delay in model OHS laws**

The Master Builders Association of Victoria has today backed calls from the Victorian Government for the Commonwealth to delay the introduction of model Work Health and Safety Laws.

While the drafts of the new Work Health and Safety Act and the model regulations are complete, subject to the Victorian Government undertaking a cost benefit analysis, the codes of practice and supporting resources are far from ready. The new laws are set to be introduced on January 1, 2012.

The new laws are supposed to be largely modelled on the current Victorian OHS Act and Regulations but there are a number of new duties that employers will need to be aware of.

“Implementing the new laws without proper guidelines will be problematic. We want to ensure workers and employers are adequately prepared so they are not vulnerable to fines and other repercussions,” Mr de Silva said.

“WorkSafe Victoria needs time to run public briefings and communications about the new laws, unions need time to educate delegates and Health and Safety Representatives and industry associations like the Master Builders need time to educate and train their members,” he said.

“This timing is an imperative part of the process to ensure the transition to the new laws is smooth, effective and with as little disruption to industry as possible.”

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