



Tony Khoury
Executive Director
Waste Contractors and
Recyclers Association of NSW
PO Box 6643
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10 November 2008

Re: Code of practice - Work near overhead power lines

Dear Tony

I refer to your letter regarding our meeting of the 18 September 2008 at which we discussed a number of operational and training issues relating to the *Code of practice – Work near overhead power lines* (the Code).

As I indicated during our meeting the Code provides guidance on the risk control measures, competency requirements and approach distances for work near overhead power lines.

The training framework that is described in Appendix 4 of the Code is intended for 'accredited persons' that are required to carry out work inside the approach distances shown in Table 1 of the Code. Following our meeting it was clarified that waste collection drivers operating front and rear loaders would not normally undertake activities inside the Table 1 approach distances therefore they would fall into the category of 'ordinary persons' as defined in the Code. In view of the above operational limitations it was agreed that drivers would therefore not normally require training to the high level described in Appendix 4 of the Code.

In relation to the point that was raised regarding the partial lifting of a front load bin a short distance off the ground and reversing away from overhead power lines I can confirm my previous advice that this activity is allowed as per the Table 3 approach distances of the Code.

WorkCover commends the initiative shown by the Association in developing a 4-hour industry specific training course that should improve the skills of drivers and address any industry knowledge gaps. The training course should lead to improved safety outcomes as it will equip drivers with an awareness of electrical hazards associated with waste and recycling collection near overhead power lines.

I must also advise that WorkCover cannot issue a "Safety Alert" to assist in the promotion of the Association's training course. Safety Alerts are issued following a specific workplace incident and are one method of keeping industry informed about a serious safety issue that has resulted, or could result, in death or serious injury.

I trust this information is of assistance and I wish the Association well in its endeavours of improving health and safety in the waste and recycling industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Low'.

Ian Low
State Coordinator - Electrical

WorkCover. Watching out for you.

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