

SAFETY & **MELBOURNE 2011** **IN ACTION 2011** **MATERIALS HANDLING**

Safety In Action visitors hungry for news

Practical workplace health and safety answers in the form of products, services and advice drew thousands of visitors to Safety In Action and Melbourne Materials Handling last week.

Three acres of safety solutions dealing with challenges as diverse as asbestos, fire-fighting, warehouse storage and even cholesterol were on show at Victoria's largest dedicated OHS event.

Alongside the products and services on offer was a series of seminars for show-goers keen to understand the new workplace health and safety laws due to be adopted from January 1 next year. An estimated 1700 visitors attended the first day's seminars alone, which featured architect of the new laws, Barry Sherriff; the body overseeing their introduction, Safe Work Australia's Julia Collins; and the Australian Industry Group's Carol Bullivant.

"Ai Group participated in Safety in Action in 2011 as a key presenter at the National OHS Harmonisation Seminars and as an exhibitor and found this a positive experience in being able to interact with many members and business people across the three days of the show," Ms Bullivant says.

"It was also an opportunity to continue our ongoing discussions with business and industry on the new Work Health and Safety laws which are coming into operation in 2012."

The popularity of the seminars has prompted show organisers to run a similar program at the Queensland Safety Show, which runs from June 21 to 23 at the Brisbane Convention Exhibition Centre.

"The new laws are only months away now and experts like Barry Sherriff are warning that time is running out to implement new protocols," says show organiser, Marie Kinsella of Australian Exhibitions & Conferences.

"Understandably, show visitors want to find the total solution to their safety challenges – the products and services that make workplaces safe, together with an understanding of what needs to be done. While Safety In Action exhibitors have always been on hand to offer their expertise, this is the first year we've run such a formal program that allows them to share their knowledge so effectively."

"Of all the states, none faces bigger changes under the new laws than Queensland and we think the seminars will be equally as useful to visitors to the Queensland Safety Show."

Aside from the exhibitors who hosted the seminars, three others were recognised for outstanding exhibition spaces, winning best stand awards: Alere, Bolle and Weldlok.

Among the new releases at Melbourne Materials Handling was dock automation software from Leda Security that allows logistics centres to book and manage trucks much like airport traffic control.

If the truck and door is fitted with RFID, "Dockbrain" permits trucks entry within the specified visiting window and only at the nominated door to alleviate queuing. For enhanced OHS, Dockbrain can manage opening and closing of equipment in sequence. Leda Security's Tom Rozsa says Dockbrain's launch at Melbourne Materials Handling surprised many visitors.

"The interest from Melbourne Materials Handling visitors in Dockbrain was huge," he says.

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“Many commented that they hadn’t been aware we’ve extended our capabilities in this way, so the show was the right platform for the launch and to get the message across that Leda Securities offers dock levellers, high speed doors, insulated doors and the automation that coordinates all the equipment to make it work.”

Safety In Action and Melbourne Materials Handling return to the Melbourne Exhibition Centre next year from April 17 to 19.

In the meantime, the myosh - sponsored Queensland Safety Show, co-located with the Queensland Materials Handling and Queensland Manufacturing Show will be held from June 21 to 23 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. For more information, visit qldsafetyshow.com.au, email safetyvisitor@aec.net.au or phone Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd on 03 9654 7773.

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