



# SAFETY ALERT

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## BEAT THE HEAT

Summer is upon us again, which means protecting yourself from one of the biggest risks – **a boss who tries to force you to work in extreme heat.**

Working in excessive heat without control in place is a clear breach of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and subordinate legislation, the National Building Construction Industry Award and your EBA.

### HEAT ILLNESS

Heat illness is a real **and immediate threat**, especially when carrying out manual and outdoor work, which can lead to skin rashes, dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stress **and even death.**

Heat also increases the risk of injuries and interacts with other workplace hazards, aggravates existing medical conditions and has been known to adversely affect sperm quality.

### THE RULES

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Chapter 2 Clause 9 (i) (vi) requires that the employer must identify any foreseeable hazards that may arise from the conduct of the employer's undertakings that has the potential to harm the health and safety of employees in this instance **HEAT.**

Clause 47 of the Regulation requires **adequate ventilation and air movement** to be provided in environments that become **HOT.**

The CFMEU EBA Clause 14, in part state," Extreme high temperature by virtue of either not reasonable or not safe while the same prevail, affected employees can be transferred to another section of that site, for productive work.

### YOUR HEALTH, YOUR SAY

The OHS Act also states the employer must consult with workers and or their delegate concerning OHS matters, including but not limited to and agreed heat policy. Issues to consider when the site OHS committee is developing a heat policy are:-

- The type of work being performed
- The agreed weather station from which the temperature is to be taken.
- Relocation of workers into shaded and cooler areas
- Sun glare
- Radiant heat from particular surfaces
- Air-conditioned sheds for rest periods.

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