



Compliance Essentials e-bulletin June 2012

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage has been increased to \$606.40 from the first full pay period after 1 July 2012. This change represents an increase of \$17.10 per week for applicable workers. Employers must apply this change where relevant in their own workforce.

National Names Register

The National Names Register came into effect on 28 May 2012, administered by ASIC. Business names are now registered using tools provided by ASIC replacing the system of registration with individual State authorities. All existing business names, Australia wide, have been merged into the one register. When applying for a new business name from here on the registration must have an ABN, which can be applied for as part of the registration process if necessary. Regular users of the ASIC website will notice amendments have been implemented to the website search functions in order to accommodate this important change.

Not for profit news

The ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) is still expecting to open its door on 1 October 2012, pending the passing of the ACNC Act, and it has been announced that Susan Pascoe, who has acted as the interim ACNC Commissioner has been appointed as the inaugural Commissioner. It is expected that the ACNC implementation plan will be announced shortly however it is still expected that the initial focus of the commission's work will be registered charities, including the set up of a national register of charities, and that activities will be moving to include other not-for-profit organisations in 2014 or after.

Warranties against defects

We have given a compliance tick to a major high street retailer who includes on their till docket not only which items included in the purchase carry a warranty but also added a narrative setting out the retailer's terms and conditions for warranties against defects. From January 2012 where a written warranty against defects is given to a consumer at point of sale there is a requirement to set out the terms and conditions in a manner prescribed by the ACCC; a transition period was set to implement this requirement but only up until September 2012. More information is available from the ACCC website; go to <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/996742> to check the application of this regulation to your business.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property is part of an organisation's assets. Trademarks and patents can be registered for ownership via IP Australia. IP Australia has announced that, as part of the Federal budget changes, prices for their services are being increased mainly as at 1 July 2012 with some changes at 1 October 2012. There is still time to take advantage of the current pricing structure before 30 June.

How can we help?

Watch this interview with John Millar as part of his Business Leaders series, where we talk about how we can assist organisations to 'get compliant' http://youtu.be/H_bVgNfkLxM

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