

Queensland Mining and Quarrying Industry Safety and Health Levy Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Safety and Health Levy?

The Safety and Health Levy is a fee charged by the Queensland Government for safety and health services provided by the State to mining, quarrying and explosives operations across Queensland. The levy is charged to industry on a cost recovery basis.

Why is the government charging me the Safety and Health Levy?

Over 40,000 mining, quarrying and explosives employees in Queensland benefit from safety and health services provided by the Safety and Health Division of Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI).

The State Government currently funds the regulatory compliance services provided to Queensland mining, quarrying and explosives operations at a cost in excess of \$32 million per year.

Over the past five years industry employee numbers have increased significantly. This unprecedented expansion has placed increased pressure on the government to continue to deliver quality services that ensure the safety and health of industry workers and the community.

The levy is an appropriate and transparent way to ensure the standard of services is maintained and improves to meet growing demand.

When did the levy start?

The Safety and Health Levy commenced on 1 October 2008.

When was the levy announced?

The Safety and Health Levy was announced as part of the 2008/09 Budget by the Government and subsequently, announced in the media on 3 June 2008.

How will the fee be calculated?

The annual per-capita fee will be calculated based on the budgeted cost of safety and health services for the relevant financial year divided by the average number of employees in the industry according to data provided by mining, quarrying and explosives operations for the previous financial year.

The levy amount will vary depending on the number of people in the industry and the cost to deliver safety and health services each year.

What will the levy be used for?

The Safety and Health Levy will fund existing safety and health services to the mines and quarries industries including:

- safety and health inspections and audits
- investigation of mine accidents
- collection and reporting of safety and health statistics
- provision of safety and health advice
- collection and maintenance of mine employee health records
- dissemination of mining safety and health standards
- research, development, and training in mining safety and health
- provision of emergency services.

What are the benefits to industry?

Implementation of the levy will permit the government to continue to fund the expansion of high quality safety and health services to the industry to assist in achieving a target of 'zero harm'.

I am a small miner do I need to complete the census form and pay the levy?

In amendments to the legislation enacted on 1 October 2010, the chief executive re-considered the status of small operators in relation to the Safety and Health Levy. Consideration was given to the frequency of information received from small organisations, and whether the levy should be applied.

As a result of this review, operations with 5 or less workers will now be required to submit an annual census form. Operations with 6 or more workers will continue to receive a quarterly census form. Operations with 5 or less workers are now exempt from paying the levy. The levy will not be applied to these operations from the 2010-11 financial year onwards. Operations with 6 or more workers will continue to receive an annual invoice for the Safety and Health Levy.

Why do I have to complete the census form if I have no employees?

In accordance with Part 2A of the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2001 you are required as the holder of a granted mining tenure in Queensland to complete and return the census form to the department.

How do I complete the census form if I have no employees?

Complete the form showing the number of hours you have personally worked either at a mine or quarry.

How long do I have to complete the census form?

The annual census form must be received by the department within 20 days after the end of the financial year.

I completed the form incorrectly can I resubmit the form and get a refund?

Yes, you can resubmit the form and if it is determined that the levy has been overpaid a refund will be paid in accordance with the regulation.

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