



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Materiel
Organisation

ANZAC SPO/OUT/2015/321

Mr Ivan Domkerkovich
IKAD Engineering
31 Stuart Drive
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Dear Mr Domkerkovich

VLS SOFT PATCH REMOVAL – HMAS ARUNTA

1. During the recent maintenance activity on board HMAS *Arunta*, the VLS Soft Patch was removed to allow access to the ship's Propulsion Diesel Engines. This lift is only possible by breaching provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* relating to the prohibition on 'riding the load'.
2. ANZAC SPO entered a process to obtain an exemption from Comcare to perform the task. I acknowledge the manner in which you contributed meaningfully by providing material relating to how the task was to be conducted without risk to workers despite the general prohibition. As a result of the provision of that material, in addition to other requirements, the exemption was granted and the soft patch removed on 21 Feb 15.
3. Due to the nature of the lift, Comcare attended the ship on 21 Feb 15 and observed the lift and noted that the conditions of the exemption had been complied with. I am informed that members of the ANZAC SPO WHS Team also observed the lift.
4. The feedback I received was very positive, and reflected well on the professionalism of your team and the manner in which the task was conducted. I have been advised the Comcare Inspector left before the soft patch had been elevated more than 1 metre, a great indication of the comfort he felt at the manner in which the task was being managed and conducted.
5. I congratulate you and your team and ask that you pass on my appreciation to all involved on their efforts to conduct a hazardous task in such a safe and professional manner. I look forward to recognising excellent safety performance in the future.


RA Durbin
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