

Safety Applications

Organisations which operate complex equipment like mobile cranes, elevated work platforms, underground mining machines and the like have a need to ensure that site specific risk assessments are completed in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety compliance guidelines. In many cases these questionnaires, which are supposed to be completed prior to beginning each job, are either ignored, partially completed, or only finished after the event when a supervisor demands to see the paperwork. Should an accident occur organisations (and individual managers under the guise of vicarious liability) are increasingly liable for the actions of their employees, unless they can demonstrate a "culture of safety", and demonstrate that they have taken appropriate steps to minimise any potential hazards in the work environment.

autoSCRIBETM units can be adapted for exactly this purpose. They can be wired into any piece of equipment, such as mobile cranes or forklifts, in such a way that before the equipment can be used, the operator has to answer a number of questions or provide information about any relevant safety parameters. This is all done by voice recording, and has to be completed in real time, before the equipment can be used. The data gathered in this way is stored and can be downloaded in the normal manner.

Feedback from OH&S professionals is that a proactive approach to the challenge of ensuring workplace safety has a significant positive impact in terms of reducing the incidence of operator-caused industrial or workplace accidents. Darrell Moody, Workplace Safety Manager for Energex Ltd has stated: "Intuitively, any intervention which requires and ensures that a person completes a risk/hazard assessment process prior to operating heavy equipment, or entering a confined work space for example, should lead to a more significant appreciation of workplace hazards, and the subsequent taking of appropriate steps to reduce the associated risk. If this in turn leads to fewer workplace accidents, injuries and fatalities, then everyone is better off. Should an accident occur notwithstanding the above, then issues of liability and negligence are more likely to be resolved than under the present circumstances".