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Outstanding Success in Health & Safety - Gibbons Engineering Ltd

In the current climate where health and safety has been such a major issue for all businesses this year, it is great to celebrate with clients who have achieved outstanding success with their health and safety practices.

Gibbons Engineering Ltd recently went through the process of applying for their Workplace Safety Management Practices (WSMP) discount from Accident Compensation Corporation and decided to aim for the highest goal possible of tertiary level recognition. They succeeded!

Director, Kristine Gibbons said, "I wanted to go for the top level, and was blown away that we succeeded - really proud of the team."

While Kristine was the driving force behind this decision, the achievement is absolutely the teams. The approach they took to implementing the requirements is totally refreshing; the entire team of 15 is involved, with regular and open communication. It has simply become a way they work together.

Kristine said, "Morale has improved, staff are more qualified and productivity has increased - the business is thriving on the communication, training and attitude we have of looking after each other."

Kristine explained the techniques they have developed, which include holding a monthly team meeting where everyone has input, with a different person each month talking on a specific subject, and many issues get ironed out during these sessions. In addition they run 'toolbox talks' on new jobs, new equipment, etc.

Every six months a senior team member will take everyone on a tour of the premises, to go over how every machine operates best practice and the protective equipment to be used. This refresher is just part of the focus that Gibbons' have on training which has come out of having good health and safety policies. "Training for us is huge", says Kristine, "and we see the benefits in staff engagement and productivity."

Prior to each health and safety meeting they have a staff member (alternating) conduct a full site check and report back on this to the team during the meeting. Several practical health and safety procedures have come directly from this.

Make no mistake – the team at Gibbons' has met all the paperwork requirements, and has a robust manual and policies in place. Kristine said, "The paperwork and recording is not that hard, especially with the way we have approached it." They also use the services Safewise Ltd, Tracey Murphy, who has been integral to the team's journey to success.

The discount earned through WSMP achievement has not been the key factor for Gibbons', and Kristine says the real benefit is having a team that looks after each other, takes care and pride in what they do, and knows they are in a supportive work environment that encourages them to achieve.

WorkSafe wants health and safety to improve and for it to be a living practice in every industry, so we congratulate the team at Gibbons Engineering Ltd on setting such a great example and their well-deserved achievement.