

media release

From farm to fork – risk control for food manufacturers

29 November 2006: Food poisoning and illness from food allergies, coupled with emerging threats such as Avian Flu continue to pose significant challenges for the food manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing processes can be increasingly complex and give rise to numerous liability exposures in the production operation. Food safety and risk control has never been so vital. Even though every manufacturing business is unique, minimising liability exposure as part of business strategy is necessary to ensure operations can continue to be successful.

All businesses in the food manufacturing industry need to have sound risk management systems in place, including a robust documented quality assurance program. The good news is your insurer can provide valuable assistance with the identification of exposures and suggestions for the management of risk.

Having the right risk mitigation processes will ensure that your manufacturing business sustains its competitive edge.

Vero's Corporate Liability team specialises in the manufacturing sector. The team comprises of industry qualified, experienced and specialist staff with food safety, quality assurance and environmental program management backgrounds.

General Manager Corporate and Facilities at Vero Insurance Limited (Vero), Darren O'Connell said having the right controls in place and adequate liability insurance is essential for all food manufacturers today.



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"Your insurer needs to gain a thorough understanding of your business operations including the type of manufacturing process, the end use of your products and the level of risk control in place.

"Controls should include a sound food safety program and a robust quality assurance system. We work with your manufacturing business to reduce your risk by assisting you to identify any exposures and suggesting effective measures to manage those," Mr O'Connell said.

In May 2006, Vero Corporate introduced 'Platinum', an innovative risk assessment program that rewards businesses for improving their risk. A Vero risk consultant will assess the property and liability exposures of a business and provide a comprehensive report within 30 days, outlining potential hazards and possible solutions for managing those. Vero Corporate can provide a combined program that covers not only liability exposures but also asset protection (ISR).

After the assessment, Vero gives the business a silver, gold or platinum grading. A soft copy of the recommendations and suggestions on how to improve the grading is also provided. Financial rewards and the Platinum grading is given to businesses with strong risk management processes.

"The Platinum program is designed to identify liability exposures, improve risk management practices and reward businesses for their investment," Mr O'Connell said.

Liability insurance, also known as a 'broadform' liability policy, is a combination of public liability and products liability cover. Vero Corporate Liability can also provide products recall expense and services cover for food manufacturers.



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"It is important to seek advice from a broker. Your broker will select a liability policy that addresses the unique needs of your business and provides adequate cover specific to your business risks," said Mr O'Connell.

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Editor's note

Vero Insurance Limited ("Vero") is a subsidiary of the Promina Group Limited, which is one of the top 50 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. Vero, formerly Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Australia Limited, has for many years been offering highly specialised solutions to its large range of customers.

Vero is one of Australia's largest intermediated general insurance companies and has 19 branches across Australia, providing a suite of quality specialised risk management products and services through brokers, corporate partners and risk managers.

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