

**Safety First:** ACORN Recommends that members review the draft and feedback to Tracey Kerle by 8th Feb to ensure that we have a voice.

**Background:**

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authority (HWSA) initiated a national intervention and compliance campaign in 2008 called 'The Safe Steps – Manual Handling, Slips and Trips in Hospitals Campaign' with one outcome being the recommendation of a national focus for central sterilising supply departments (CSSDs). The aim being to ensure implementation of control measures that reduce the risks associated with manual tasks.

As a result of these recommendations, WorkCover NSW formed a national working party and undertook further research, which included state-wide inspections of CSSDs, courier services and surgical equipment suppliers. The inspections found that the transport and handling of road cases, tubs and surgical instrument trays presented a significant risk, with serious implications across these industry sectors.

This guide provides practical guidance for designers, manufacturers, suppliers, couriers and users of surgical instrument set transport cases, and outlines their obligations with regard to the transport and handling of the cases and their contents.

**Your Role:** to ensure the national draft document is appropriate as the basis for the standardisation of safety measures for Perioperative practice settings please comment on the following:

- a) Whether the scope & content of the draft guide is clear, accurate & relevant for the end user
- b) Whether the layout & flow of the document is appropriate & easy to understand
- c) The accuracy & application of the technical information
- d) The quality & practicality of the diagrams, photos & appendices

You may want to comment on other aspects of the draft.

Please send feedback directly to Tracy Kerle Honorary Secretary via [NSWDirector@acorn.org.au](mailto:NSWDirector@acorn.org.au)