



A VL real life claim example

Public & Products Liability

Exports to Australia – Workers Compensation

The Insured, a New Zealand furniture manufacturer, exported a line of office furniture in flat packs for a new building in Victoria, Australia.

The main contractor engaged a labour pool firm to supply workers on the contract. One of these workers injured his back whilst handling one of the Insured's furniture packs. The personal injury claim against the labour pool was dealt with by the statutory Workers Compensation insurer, Victorian Workcover Authority (VWA).

Under Victorian legislation VWA was entitled to seek recovery from the main contractor as "host employer". The Insured was joined in the action, it being alleged that a contributory factor in the accident was that the furniture packs had no external markings showing the weight of the pack with precautionary instructions on handling.

Settlement was achieved without any contribution from the Insured.

Whilst the outcome was successful the costs involved in defending and attending the mediation were around \$40,000.

CEG 037-102019/000