



19 February 2008

Mr Kym Bills FSIA
Executive Director
Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)
PO Box 967
CIVIC SQUARE, ACT 2608

Dear Kym

STRATEGIC PARTNER "INVESTIGATION" - LETTER OF COOPERATION

The Safety Institute of Australia Inc (SIA) was formed in 1949 and is a not-for-profit, independent, apolitical, professional association with over 3,000 members nationally. The Institute believes that the distinctive advice of qualified and experienced health and safety practitioners is a prerequisite to the specification of the health and safety responsibilities of all levels of government (Federal, State, Territory or Local), employers (across all industry sectors) and community organisations. The SIA aims toward the highest possible standards of health and safety at work, on the roads, at play and at home.

The objectives of the SIA are to:

- promote health and safety awareness;
- advance the science and practice of health and safety;
- research and develop health and safety standards, procedures and practices.
- encourage the recognition of the SIA's involvement within health and safety; and
- promote professional recognition and develop ethical awareness and integrity through the SIA's involvement in industrial, domestic and commercial health and safety issues.

To assist the SIA to more effectively promote health and safety and in particular preventative health and safety and continuous improvement, the SIA wishes to establish Strategic Partners (national and international).

The initial enabling categories that have been selected to facilitate this new initiative are Research & Development; Standards; Health; Investigation; Engineering; Industry Co-ordination; Industry Sectors; Education and Training; Legal; and International.

Accordingly, the SIA wishes to consolidate the already well established relationship between the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) and the SIA on health and safety-related investigation, and to invite the ATSB to become the SIA's Strategic Partner "Investigation".

The SIA acknowledges that the ATSB is an operationally independent bureau within the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and

Local Government. Under the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* (CTH) (TSI Act), the Executive Director of Transport Safety Investigation in the ATSB is responsible for the investigation of aviation, rail and marine transport safety matters. The ATSB conducts its investigations in accordance with 'no-blame' principles and independently of other government agencies and private organisations. The SIA also acknowledges that the ATSB has a policy, coordination, research and statistics role in the area of road safety. Through its mandate, the ATSB seeks to positively influence transport safety by facilitating awareness and action in response to safety issues identified by the ATSB rather than to prescribe or enforce safety solutions. These are matters for other parties such as transport regulators.


This letter provides a basis for mutual co-operation between our two organizations as strategic partners in the promotion of health and safety through, for example, the identification and conduct and promulgation of appropriate investigations that are, directed primarily at, or applicable to, the customers of both organisations.

However, this letter shall not in any way limit the role and independence of the ATSB or the SIA, or inhibit their ability to speak independently on any health and safety related issue.

The following guidelines provide a basis for this mutual co-operation to the degree that resources permit and without compromising the ATSB's principles of no-blame and independence:

- The ATSB and SIA will recognise each other's mutual aim to improve transport safety and will undertake to support each other in the pursuit of that aim, recognising that the ATSB and SIA may have different means of achieving that aim.
- Representatives of senior staff of the ATSB and senior officers of the SIA will seek to meet informally on a six-monthly basis to discuss subjects of mutual interest, including the consideration of possible joint research projects in transport safety.
- The ATSB will seek to provide safety-related articles for publication in SIA's magazine *Australian Safety + Health Matters* and peer review journal *Safety In Australia*.
- The ATSB and the SIA will seek to identify areas of joint publication of reports, handbooks and miscellaneous publications related to health and safety-related transport investigations, and it is intended that a separate agreement will be negotiated for each publication.
- The ATSB will liaise with the SIA to identify areas for joint meetings and participation in conferences on professional topics associated with the promotion of health and safety and related investigations across the transport industry.

Yours sincerely,



KYM BILLS
Executive Director
Australian Transport Safety Bureau



GARY LAWSON-SMITH
Chief Executive Officer
Safety Institute of Australia Inc