



Submissions and crate weight project prepared by Ali Perry Perioperative Nurses College of NZNO 46rd Annual General Meeting To be held in Hamilton on Saturday 19th October 2019

A submission was made in response to a draft document (PS43) published by ANZCA on anaesthetist fatigue and the risks of this to anaesthetist's and patient wellbeing. The Perioperative College (NZNO) response was supportive of the document but there was mention made that there were other parties involved in supporting the anaesthetist in their role and the query raised whether this should be acknowledge in the document in an endeavour to provide support to other occupational groups.

In terms of the crate weight project there has been no response from Worksafe NZ or ACC to concerns raised by Perioperative College (NZNO). IN the meantime the NZ Private Surgical Hospitals Association has formed a working group to look at the crate weight issue due to the potential impact on staff health and safety but also concerns about storage requirements if more sets need to be stored.

This group conducted a survey on loan instrumentation over various private hospitals that agreed to participate over a two week period in early April and the findings were as follows.

- 56% of crates 7 kg or less
- 32% between 7 and 10 kg
- 11% between 10 and 15 kg
- 0.5 % between 15 and 20 kg
- 0.8% greater than 20 kg.

Letters were sent to all the Medical Supply companies identified during the survey alerting them to their responsibilities as Persons Conducting Business under the Health and Safety at work Act (2015) and welcoming their input and feedback. A few responded immediately and others have needed chasing with a few still to respond. At this stage all say they are considering ways to meet this requirement.

So the committees take home message would be to be vigilant in your workplace about overweight loan instrumentation and ask your local medical representatives to address the issue. They are not ignorant of the requirements and you have the opportunity to create a safer workplace for yourself and your colleagues by continuing to put pressure on companies to supply instrumentation in crates weighing no greater than 7 kg.

Thank you