

20 July 2021

To whom it may concern

Independent Health and Safety Audits – Talley’s

1. QMS has been engaged to undertake annual audits of the Talley’s health and safety systems across their core operating businesses since early 2019. These audits have been conducted annually and are strictly independent.
2. The introduction of these annual independent audits by QMS, was part of the company’s process to strengthen and invest in health and safety across their sites.
3. QMS has undertaken a significant number of independent assessments of health and safety systems across a wide range of New Zealand industries and sites. Having read the TVNZ one enquiry (20 July 2021) we wish to make it clear that:
 - a) As auditors it is not unusual or adverse for audit reports to identify areas for improvement or breaches of existing policy. It would be misleading to selectively identify single reports or comments within those reports to draw adverse conclusions about overall safety performance or culture as appears to be the case in respect of the 2019 and 2020 Blenheim audit reports by QMS.
 - b) From the audits that QMS have undertaken for Talley’s to date, including at their Blenheim site, it is clear there is a substantial commitment by the company to the health, safety and wellbeing of their staff. There is also a constant drive for improvement.
 - c) Our annual assessments have shown a significant uplift in compliance with policies, procedures and the health and safety performance across the sites generally.
 - d) All health and safety systems need to continually evolve and improve. Independent auditing, revealing the good and bad, compliance or otherwise with internal policies, can be regarded as best practice. As part of any audit process key themes, observations and recommendation’s to further improve systems are regularly made and followed up during the next independent audit visit. The 2019 and 2020 reports for the Blenheim site are precisely representative of that process.
4. Like many businesses we audit, Talley’s have made significant improvements to their health and safety systems. Independent audit results play a key role in that and should not be misrepresented.



Geoff McRobie
Director