

CHOOSING A WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR

Competent, qualified workplace health and safety advisors can [add value to businesses in many ways](#).

Specialist help is often required to manage detailed or technical issues and to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

When you are looking for a workplace health and safety advisor, you should ask yourself the following questions:

Are they a member of a professional association?

Professional associations require their members to be certified practitioners and meet minimum standards of competence and to comply with a code of ethics. They also have a complaints procedure which gives you an avenue for remedying any problems that might arise with the service you receive. Can the person you are assessing confirm their membership? If you are in any doubt you can check with their professional association. See [HASANZ member organisations](#).

Can they provide evidence of relevant training and knowledge, such as formal qualifications?

A qualified health and safety professional will be able to provide documentation proving their competence, such as a practising certificate issued by the relevant professional association. You should also check what continuing professional development the person is undertaking.

Do they have practical experience in your industry or type of business activity?

Find out what skills and experience they have for the job. It's important that they can explain why they are competent to advise you on that matter. Can they give you examples of similar work they have done recently? There are many specialist fields in workplace health and safety so if your business has risks associated with, say, hazardous substances, you will need an expert skilled in that particular area.

Are they happy for you to contact their clients about the work they have done for them?

A good verbal reference from satisfied clients is a powerful recommendation and will increase your confidence in an advisor's ability to meet your needs. You might consider asking them about their last job and get their permission to talk to that client.

For a handy checklist see HASANZ's [5 Quick Questions](#).