Bulletin Industry Divisions

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Are you ready for changes to Australia's unfair contract terms regime?

Dear Member

From today, 9 November 2023, Australia's unfair contract terms regime is changing. The changes include expanding the unfair contract terms regime to 'small businesses' that have fewer than 100 employees OR turnover of less than \$10m. New civil penalty provisions for non-compliance will also apply.

Given the importance of these changes and the potential penalties involved, businesses who deal with 'standard form' contracts (which can include terms and conditions of trade) should ensure they are both familiar and compliant with these changes so as not to be caught off guard.

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) has proactively worked to inform and prepare members of these significant legislative changes.

Business owners in the automotive industry have a comprehensive guide to help protect against unfair contract terms, thanks to the MTAA.

Unfair contract terms are often difficult to interpret and can hide in confusing fine print.

MTAA, with the help of HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, have prepared Unfair contract terms in the automotive industry: Everything you need to know, a guide that helps business owners recognise unfair contract terms, what they mean for their operations, and how to avoid them in order to prevent inequitable and/or untenable situations.

MTAA's guide can assist business owners in all sectors of the automotive industry to ensure they're ready for the unfair contract terms changes.

"MTAA is proud to produce a revolutionary document consistent with the vision, purpose, and values of MTAA and its members," said MTAA CEO Geoff Gwilym.

"Unfair contract terms in the automotive industry: Everything you need to know, is the 'go to guide' for automotive businesses. It's easy to read and simple to navigate. There is nothing of its kind on the market.

The guide features 15 automotive industry sectors, with 41 unfair contract term examples, explained in plain english. The comprehensive information within the guide seeks to simplify complex unfair contract terms legislation to create a usable guide for everyone in the automotive industry.

MTAA has long held its commitment to the industry to provide information that is relevant and critical to its members' business success. This is yet another class-leading example," said Mr Gwilym.

Download Unfair contract terms in the automotive industry: Everything you need to know

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