LAW 4170 - Construction Law: Principles and Practice

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KEY PLAYERS — POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

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CAN CONTRACTOR MAKE PAYMENT CLAIM UNDER SOP? (BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SECURITY OF PAYMENT ACT	
2002 (Vic))	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

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Topic 1: Construction Contracting (Front End)

Construction Contracts

- A construction contract is a highly ambitious document it aims not only to ensure the enforceability of the underlying bargain (by avoiding problems which plague oral contracts), but also to allocate a wife variety of risks b/w parties, and increasingly, as a tool to manage disagreements and preserve workable relations
- Thus, it is crucial to select both:
 - Select the right contract (Which SF AS4000? Bespoke?)
 - Ensure contractual provisions well-drafted in light of case law and legislation

Risk Allocation

- 'Risk' is defined within AS 4360-2004 as the 'chance of something happening that will have an impact on objectives' (B&B)
- An underlying tenet of the contractual allocation of risk is **Abrahamson's principles** = the party best able to deal with and manage a particular risk ought to assume responsibility for it (B&B, 2011)
 - Recently, strong tendency towards more one-sided contracts, where one party carries all risk (Oxbrough, 2014), however this can lead to counter-productive performance
 - O Primary purpose of a construction contract is to record the parties' agreement as to who is to bear the responsibility for these risks and their financial consequences, or whether the risks are to be shared in some way (Oxbrough, 2014)

Standard Forms

- Each standard form is, effectively, a pre-set risk allocation model which each party will seek to mould, to the extent necessary and commercially possible, to reflect its desired outcomes for the project (B&B)
- All AS Forms usually require amendment (unless very, very simple project highly unlikely)
 (B&B)
 - o Contractual allocation of risk: reflect the commercial deal (B&B)
 - Meet legislative requirements: including GST, OHS, Security of Payment Legislation (R&R)

	(D&D)
AS4000	• 18% of all standard form projects were governed by AS4000 (Sharkey et al, 2014)
	Contractor friendly
	Construct Only Contract
AS4902	• 14% of all standard form projects were governed by AS4902 (Sharkey et al,2014)
	Design and Construct
	 AS4903-2000 is the relevant subcontract under AS4902

Standard Form v Bespoke

Why SFKs?

- For ease of reference and use, the industry has developed a number of SFK (Standard Form Contracts)
- In addition to the benefits that come with familiarity, using an SFK may also minimise the need for costly legal drafting (naturally, the fact that the majority of the industry believes all SFKs require substantial amendment throws this benefit into question: Sharkey et al 2014)

Why Bespoke?

- Bespoke K are more likely to be required where: Sharkey et al 2014
 - o Projects valued over \$100M
 - o Projects relate to infrastructure

Which SFK?

Need for relational approach to contracting

o NEC3

Relative power principal to contractor

- o Principal friendly = Property Council of Australia SFKs
- o Contractor = AS contracts, ABIC

Complexity of works (FIDIC)

- Red Book (Building & Engineering works, Principal as designer) Yellow Book (Plant, Design-Build) Silver Book (EPC/Turnkey projects) 0
- 0
- 0
- Gold Book (Design, Build & Operate)

- Type of project

 Construction management

 D&C (AS43000)

 Construct Only (AS4000)

 - EPC/Turnkey (Silver Book FIDIC)