

In this issue:

- Rates expected to stay stable in 2010
- Online registration gets a facelift
- Arm your employees against a flu pandemic
- WorkSafeBC works to maintain fair system
- New classification policy provides greater equity
- Magazine pullout posters spread safety message

Rates expected to stay stable in 2010

While the 2010 rates won't be approved until later this fall, the average base rate is expected to remain at \$1.56 per \$100 of employers' assessable payroll — the same rate as the last two years, and our lowest in 30 years. Based on preliminary projections, base rates are expected to decrease for 41 percent of employers, increase for 54 percent of employers, and remain the same for five percent of employers. We recognize current economic pressures, and, as a result, we'll ensure no industry faces a base rate increase of more than eight percent next year. Any premium shortfalls will be incorporated into the industry's future rates. To view the 2010 preliminary rates, go to WorkSafeBC.com, and look under Insurance, then Premiums.

Online registration gets a facelift

If you're one of many employers who've registered online, you've seen the benefits of doing business over the Internet. Why not let other employers know about the ease of online registration? They'll have even more reason to do so later this year when we introduce service improvements, including a new look and feel that reflects feedback from employers. To make our service more efficient, we're also streamlining the registration process and improving our tools to collect data. For employers, this means easier and more convenient access to information. Besides the registration tool, you can access a range of business services online. To learn how you can make your payments, report your payroll, or get a clearance letter, visit WorkSafeBC.com.

Arm your employees against a flu pandemic

With the H1N1 flu virus expected to make a comeback this fall, advance planning will provide some protection for your employees and ensure your business continues to run smoothly. If your employees are at risk of getting infected, you'll need an exposure control plan. The plan should identify which workers are at risk and how that risk can best be controlled, through training, safer work practices, responsible housekeeping and personal hygiene practices, and possible use of personal protective equipment. For most workplaces, frequent handwashing and proper coughing and sneezing etiquette will suffice; others will require more complex controls. See *Controlling Exposure: Protecting Workers from Infectious Disease*, at WorkSafeBC.com under Publications, or check the OHSR guideline (G6.34-6) at WorkSafeBC.com. For handwashing posters and audio-visual aids, search under handwashing at WorkSafeBC.com.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



Publications and videos available online

Whether you're preparing for a safety discussion or gathering information on a specific topic, we have free publications and videos to assist you.

The publications range from one-page bulletins and pamphlets to 100-page books. They cover industry-specific topics, as well as providing general information on health and safety. They may be downloaded for free at www.worksafebc.com/publications or purchased in print form at www.worksafebcstore.com.

Our award-winning health and safety videos are also available online. To watch one of our dozens of videos, check out our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WorkSafeBC. Or to view and/or download these for free, go to www.worksafebc.com/publications and click on Download or stream videos.

WorkSafeBC works to maintain fair system

We want to make sure your insurance premiums are fair and equitable. After all, you fund the cost of work-related injuries and diseases through your premiums, including the costs of health care, wage loss, and rehabilitation, as well as workplace health and safety and administration programs. And your premiums are calculated based on the risk of injury in your industry and the claim costs in your business. When employers don't pay their fair share of workers' compensation, it gives these employers a competitive advantage, and unduly burdens all other business owners who fund compensation for injured workers. For more information about the impact of fraud, visit WorkSafeBC.com under Contact Us, then click on Report fraud, or contact the Fraud Tip Line at 604 276-3295 or 1 877 523-3315 or e-mail FRAUDINFO@worksafebc.com.

In the September/October issue of WorkSafe Magazine

Machine safety is paramount in the fast-paced, high-volume world of manufacturing. But new equipment and safer machine-work practices cost time and money. To find out how employers in the manufacturing industry are addressing this dilemma – and to learn about other helpful workplace tools – visit WorkSafeMagazine.com.



New classification policy provides greater equity

We're about to amend our classification process by providing an opportunity to annually review a firm's classification. This will benefit all employers by improving equity in the system. In order to ensure your firm is classified correctly, and therefore paying the correct assessment rate, please review your firm's classification when you receive your annual rate notification package this fall. If you believe you have been misclassified, contact us right away. Questions? Please call our Employer Service Centre, 604 244-6181 or 1 888 922-2768 toll-free within B.C.

Magazine pullout posters spread safety message

Sometimes the best way to educate your employees about the importance of workplace injury prevention is in simple – and graphic – terms. But it's not always easy to find these communication tools at your fingertips. As a result, the *WorkSafe Magazine* production team have developed a new removable section in the magazine that relies on powerful images to tell the safety story. This pullout poster is meant to be placed on a worksite wall or bulletin board. In the July/August issue, the magazine featured a comic-book-style message about electrical safety. And in September/October, readers received a first aid primer on cardiopulmonary resuscitation. To subscribe, go to WorkSafeMagazine.com.

Did You Know?

More than 50 percent of serious injuries and fatalities involving young workers occur during the first six months on the job.

Popular contacts

- Claims Call Centre 604 231-8888, toll-free 1 888 967-5377
- Employer Service Centre 604 244-6181 toll-free 1 888 922-2768
- Prevention Information Line 604 276-3100 toll-free 1 888 621-7233
- Human Resources 604 276-3009, toll-free 1 888 757-5552
- Fraud Tip Line 604 276-3295, toll-free 1 877 523-3315
- Teleclaim 1 888 WORKERS (967-5377)

News Update is published by the Communications Services Department of WorkSafeBC.

This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news_update/

Communications Services
WorkSafeBC
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

WORK SAFE BC
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE