



June 1, 2006

WorkSafeBC  
Prevention Policy & Regulation Review Department  
Policy and Research Division  
PO Box 5350 Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 5L5

Via fax: 604-279-7599

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO OH&S REGULATION**

The City of Coquitlam is pleased to comment on the proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

**Part 4, General Conditions**

The change to Section 4.3 – Safe machinery and equipment – recognizes that manufacturers do not always provide recommendations and instructions for the use and operation of tools and equipment. In addition, under the former regulations there was the possibility that the manufacturer's instructions may recommend the use of only their product, whereas another generic product may be as safe or more safe, and could be less expensive. The proposed change removes the requirement to follow the manufacturer's recommendations, placing the emphasis on safe practices.

We support this proposed amendment.

**Part 5, Chemical and Biological Substances**

The proposed change to Section 5.49 – Excursion limits – attempts to clarify the requirements for excursion limits for substances only with an 8-hour TWA limit.

The new change will clarify that the excursion limits should not replace existing STELs and ceiling limits, but there is still no clear understanding what the direction is for substances that have a STEL but no Ceiling and vice versa.

City of Coquitlam  
3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7N2  
Office: 604.927.3000  
[www.coquitlam.ca](http://www.coquitlam.ca)

The proposed wording suggests the assumption that all substances either have STELs and Ceilings or have none. The reality is that some contaminants have only one or the other. There should be clarification in the regulation or guideline, to identify:

- 1) If subsections (a) and (b) would still apply for the case of a "missing" STEL or Ceiling;
- 2) Whether or not the employer has the power (within the Regulation) to adopt an excursion limit in place of a "missing" STEL of Ceiling.

#### **Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements**

There are two proposed amendments to Part 6, under definitions (Section 6.33) and Controls (Section 6.36)

Defining a "health care work place" and a "safety engineered needle" is appropriate and supported

Section 6.36 contains wording changes in subsection (1) which improve the safety of workers and the change is supported. In addition, the proposed new subsection 1.1 regarding the use of safety-engineered needles or needle-less devices would also improve the safety of workers and is likewise supported.

#### **Part 9, Confined Spaces**

The proposed amendment to Section 9.11, Qualifications, requires those with the professional credentials of certified industrial hygienist or registered occupational hygienist have experience in confined space entry before being deemed to be "qualified" to conduct hazard assessments and written confined space entry procedures. This is a reasonable amendment, in conjunction with subsection 2(c) which provides the Board officer the leeway to recognize other education, training and experience acceptable to the Board. It is entirely possible for someone without the designated credentials to be deemed to be "qualified" to conduct hazard assessments and prepare written confined space entry procedures.

The proposed amendment to Section 9.11 is supported.

Section 9.18 is proposed to be amended by removing the distinction between pressures within a pipe, recognizing that pressures above or below 15 psig could be hazardous.

There has been insufficient change to this section from a Municipal perspective.

1. "*adjacent piping*" means a device such as a pipe, line, duct or conduit which is connected to a confined space or is so located as to allow a substance from within the device to enter the confined space.

This requires isolation of potable water lines in valve chambers if the water lines have valves or pumps in line, even though the integrity of that particular system is not being compromised. Risk Assessments support the practice of acknowledging the hazard with no probability of exposure as long as the integrity of the system is not compromised. As such, further isolation is not necessary as it is part of an engineered system.

The Regulation should acknowledge this.

2. 9.18(4) single valve isolation: In respect to isolating a substance that is hazardous only because of its pressure, temperature or quantity, in particular potable water: we must keep in mind that municipal water systems are designed and engineered. American Water and Waste Association standards appear to accept the design and use of single valve isolation, reducing pressure behind the line. There is no history of catastrophic failure of the valves.

In respect to single or multiple valve failures – they do not occur. There is no history of catastrophic failure of the valves. Isolation requirements in potable water systems should reflect the use of single valve isolation, reducing pressure to minimum acceptable operational parameters.

The proposed amendment to Section 9.22, and the corresponding Guideline, allowing alternate isolation measures other than those listed in section 9.18, provides a reasonable opportunity for employers to implement alternate isolation measures if the isolation procedures outlined in 9.18 are not practicable.

However, the requirement for applications for alternate measures is an administrative burden and does not work in emergency situations such as water main breaks. The process is well understood; the provision of blanket alternate measures should be a consideration, and should be addressed in the guidelines. From a municipal perspective, this change is supported as there are certain situations where isolation in strict compliance with 9.18 is not possible or practicable.

### **Part 13, Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms**

The proposed change to Section 13.23 (5) – a complete repeal of the existing language – removes the lack of clarity in the current regulation regarding the appropriate action required for a “structural inspection” in the tenth year after the date of manufacture, and every fifth year after that.

The remaining regulation in section 13.23 continues to provide sufficient requirements for annual inspection and testing, maintaining worker safety.

The proposed amendment to section 13.23(5) is supported.

Section 13.33, subsection 1 will require a worker on a self-propelled elevating work platform to wear a personal fall arrest system. This will increase worker safety and the proposed amendment is supported.

Subsection 1.1 provides an exemption for a personal fall arrest system for workers on scissor lifts or elevating work platforms like scissor lifts, where there is not danger of lift instability. This is a reasonable amendment and is supported.

Changes to subsection 4 improve worker safety by ensuring a platform suspended from a crane or hoist cannot fall more than 15 cm if the platform becomes dislodged from the hook. This amendment is supported.

#### **Part 14, Cranes and Hoists**

The proposed amendment to Section 14.34 (3) is premature. This regulation is being proposed prior to the development and implementation of the training program currently being created through Industry Services.

This employer has grave concerns regarding a Regulation being put into place without being able to comment on the content of the training program it will require. A similar occurrence with Traffic Control Person training has created numerous problems for all employers.

Changes to Part 14, Section 14.34 (3) are not supported at this time, nor any time prior to employers having an opportunity for input in the training program being proposed.

This employer does not have tower cranes so will not provide comment on the proposed changes to Section 14.91.

Section 14.91 clarifies that the interval for shortening a hoisting rope is 500 hours of use and excludes non-rotating wire ropes with 14 or more outer strands or with a plastic coated inner core from the requirement to periodically shorten the hoisting rope.

We support this proposed change.

#### **Part 18, Traffic Control**

The proposed amendment to Section 18.1, clarifying that the primary reference for traffic control be the OHS Regulation, is supported.

The proposed amendments throughout Part 18 recognizing a qualified worker, are supported. It is gratifying to note that concerns expressed by municipalities with respect to the lengthy and excessive training program, and the apparent requirement that TCP's are required for all traffic control, have been acknowledged through the proposed amended regulation.

## **Part 20, Construction, Excavation and Demolition**

### **Section 20.4, Safe Access**

The proposed amendment to section 20.4 to include specific requirement for the provision of suitable access to all locations of a construction site to permit the safe delivery of equipment and material will improve the safety of workers on construction sites and is supported.

### **Part 23: Oil and Gas, Part 24: Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations, Part 26: Forestry Operations**

Not applicable to our municipality so no comments are made.

### **Part 26: Forestry Operations**

It is recognized that tree falling is one of the most hazardous occupations. The proposed changes to wind speeds and the hazard area of a dangerous tree are supported.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation changes.

Yours truly,

Cris Bendall  
Health and Safety Advisor  
City of Coquitlam  
3000 Guildford Way  
Coquitlam, BC V3B 7N2