

## PART 5: CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCES

### CONTROLLING EXPOSURE

<b>Excursion limits</b>	<b>5.49</b>	If a substance referred to under section 5.48 <del>has</del> <b>is provided only with</b> an 8-hour TWA limit, the employer must, in addition to the requirement of section 5.48, ensure that a worker's exposure to the substance does not exceed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) three times the 8-hour TWA limit for more than a total of 30 minutes during the work period, and</li><li>(b) five times the 8-hour TWA limit at any time.</li></ul>
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#### Explanatory note

Threshold limit values ("TLVs") refer to airborne concentrations of chemical substances and represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed, day after day, over a working lifetime, without adverse health effects. There are three categories of TLVs: time-weighted average ("TWA") over an 8-hour period; short-term exposure limit ("STEL") and a ceiling. Some chemical substances have been assigned values for a TWA and either a STEL or a ceiling, while other substances have been assigned TWA or ceiling values only.

Section 5.49 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* ("OHSR") establishes excursion limits for hazardous substances which have only been assigned a TWA by applying a formula to the assigned 8-hour TWA value. The purpose of these excursion limits is to ensure workers are not exposed to excessively high short bursts of hazardous substances which could cause acute health effects.

The former wording of section 5.49 did not clearly state that excursion limits apply only when a STEL or ceiling has not been assigned to the substance. This caused confusion as the airborne concentration level determined by applying the excursion limit formula may differ from the specific STEL or ceiling limit assigned to the substance.

This amendment reinserts the phrase "is provided only with" into section 5.49 of the *OHSR* to clarify that an excursion limit applies only to a substance which does not otherwise have an assigned STEL or ceiling. Section 5.49 is not meant to supersede any assigned STEL or ceiling limit.