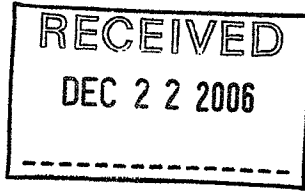
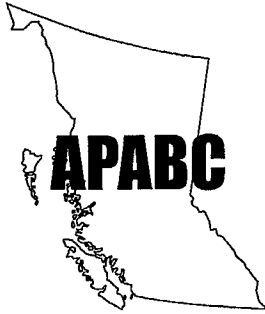


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Aggregate Producers Association of B.C.



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Mr. Doug Enns - Chair, Board of Directors
Worksafe BC
PO Box 5350 Stn. Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L5

December 19th, 2006

Dear Mr. Enns

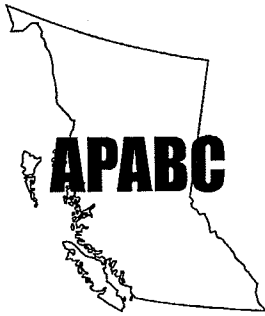
Re: Proposed Amendment: Regulation 3.22 to 3.26 New Entrants

I am writing to you on behalf of the Aggregate Producers Association of BC (APABC) to express our Association's strong opposition to the proposed amendment going any further. In a recent study conducted by Dr. Daniel Skarlicki, for the Construction Safety Network (CSN), he noted that 40% of the workforce has less than one year's experience with the surveyed company. This new amendment, with its additional onerous paper documentation, would heavily burden any company. Therefore we are calling on the Board of Directors at WorkSafe BC to instruct staff to withdraw this draft amendment / regulation from consideration.

At the Aggregate Producers Association of BC we have asked our Board of Directors to carefully reviewed the draft, and we have reached the following conclusions:

- 1) The proposed regulation is redundant. Regulations already exist that deal with an employer's duty to train employees and to document that training;
- 2) Further to the issue of redundancy, there already exists a duty to provide orientation for all workers of the risks associated with a new construction project;
- 3) The draft is counter productive to the WorkSafe BC position of consult, educate, and then enforce. This prescriptive approach is reminiscent of the old policing model which was ineffective in changing employer behavior;
- 4) The draft regulation was distributed with no critical analysis behind it. We have no claims data consequently it is difficult to determine what the scope of the problem is and how a regulatory response would best serve the problem.

As an industry we helped formed the Construction Safety Network to address industry's need for safety training. The CSN has made significant progress in the area of best practices with rock scaling, the alternative to diesel as a cleaning agent and the recently adopted traffic control for slow moving work zones. The CSN is currently working on several other initiatives including: asphalt plant worker orientation, top plate work practices, concrete pump worker orientation and will be identifying others in the near



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future. The CSN has provided all the safety input into the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association's Industry Training Organization which has successfully launched its entry level training this year. The CSN will be providing similar services to other industry ITOs in the future. The CSN is working on other general new entrant safety initiatives including examining the Lafarge Canada "Green Hand Program" for its applicability throughout construction. The CSN consistently seeks out innovative responses to issues such as the recent escalation in worker participation in construction.

With many of these initiatives the CSN has worked closely with Industry Services and the North Vancouver office to ensure that the valuable perspective of WorkSafe BC is integrated into the final result. Instead of the development of more onerous regulations, WorkSafe BC could be capitalizing on its partnership with industry on the problem of new entrants. In the summer of 2006, CSN extended to Industry Services its willingness to take up the challenge of new entrants. This issue formed a significant part of its 2007 business that was adopted by the SEC on November 29th, 2006.

At the Aggregate Producers Association of BC, we are not opposed to regulations. But if we create a regulation that is virtually impossible to follow, it could be ignored. Amongst all our members, large or small, that potential is there. We strongly urge WorkSafe BC to withdraw this draft in favor of the more positive partnership approach.

Sincerely,

Paul Allard – Executive Director

Cc David Anderson, CEO, WorkSafe BC
Roberta Ellis, Vice-president, WorkSafe BC ✓
Stan Weismiller, Chair CSN
M.J. Whitemarsh, Canadian Home Builders Association
Carolyn Campbell, BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
Philip Hochstein, ICBA
Jack Davidson, BC Roadbuilders

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