



January 31, 2007

File No: 140-01/WCBB

WorkSafe BC  
Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia  
Prevention Policy and Regulation Review Department  
Policy and Research Division  
P.O. Box 5350 Station Terminal  
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: 2006 Proposed Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Amendments

The BC Public Service Agency (the Agency) provides human resource management services, under the *Public Service Act*, to a diverse workforce of approximately 30,000 employees in ministries and organizations in British Columbia.

Enclosed is our submission of January 31, 2007 on Proposed Occupational Health and Safety Amendments. This submission incorporates the combined concerns of our ministries and organizations. Ministries and organizations may also be submitting their own specific submissions.

By way of general comment, the multitude of changes being presented and the short time frames for review and comment is onerous. Subsequently, it creates a situation where this employer may not be able to provide in-depth reviews and submissions it warrants. Developing legislative changes is onerous. As a suggestion, perhaps a meeting with stakeholders to assess the present process and establish a more effective process would be appropriate.

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The Agency thanks the Workers' Compensation Board of Directors for the opportunity to submit this document for consideration and review. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of our concerns or issues raised in this document.

Yours sincerely,



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Stephen Copen  
Director

Enclosure

pc: Barry Wilton, ADM Client Services, BCPSA  
Regional Directors, Client Services, BCPSA  
Occupational Safety Specialists, Client Services, BCPSA



**Province Of British Columbia  
BC Public Service Agency (BCPSA)**

**January 31, 2007**

**Submission to the Regulation Review Committee  
on the 2006 Proposed Amendments to the WorkSafeBC  
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation**

**Part 4: General Conditions:**

**Working Alone or in Isolation 4.20.1 to 4.23.1**

We have no concerns in this proposed amendment for the BC Public Service, however, in support of the Service Station industry in 4.23.1 we suggest that there should be the requirement for non-urban areas to follow the same protocol if a risk is identified.

**Part 3: Rights and Responsibilities:**

**Young or New Workers 3.22-3.26:**

**General comments on section and comments on 3.25(2)**

We agree and support that there should be provisions in the regulation to require employers to provide workers new to the job or transferred with orientation and training about safe work procedures and how to recognise hazards on the job. However, we do not agree with separating workers by age. We see this as discriminatory as all new workers, despite their age, should receive equal orientation. For example, language in proposed 3.25 (2) should include all new workers, presently written it only refers to young workers under twenty-five years of age. In our experience, workers over twenty-five years of age who have been out of the work force for a substantial amount of years or who never previously entered the workforce require the same level of orientation as under the under twenty-five year aged workers.

**Proposed addition 3.26 (b) "requested by the young or new worker"**

We agree with the proposal that there should be additional orientation and training if the new worker is not able to perform work tasks or work processes safely.

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However, we disagree with the wording of 3.26 (b); presently written it invites unjustified requests. If it is abused it would use valuable orientation and/or training resources from those that are bona fide in its need.

*Note: We see this assessment as a practice that could be conducted by the supervisor with participation of the local Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Reference to this should be written into the WorkSafe guidelines attached to this section of the OHSR.*

**Part 6: Substance Specific Requirements:**

Biohazardous Materials 6.33 to 6.41:

Part 6: Substance Specific Requirements Biohazardous Materials: 6.33 to 6.41:

Parts 6.36 (1.4) and 6.36 (1.5).

We support the intent of this proposed change; however, we do have concerns with the reference of "highest level" of protection. In the same manner as the selection of personal protective equipment is required in Part 8 of the OHSR, selection should be based on ensuring *effective protection*. If two products provide effective protection from the hazard then the employer should have the option as to which one to provide.