

W1034

Written Submission
to the
WCB Public Hearings
in regards to
WCB Policy and Regulations Development Bureau

Subject: Occupational First Aid

The IWA Canada is opposed to the proposed performance based requirements for Occupational First Aid. Specifically (sec. 3.16) where the employer conducts an assessment to determine the risk, thusly to determine which First Aid level is required.

As you may know our industry, logging and manufacturing of wood fibre products are dangerous occupations. This can be defined by the WCB's own statistics. Therefore, we believe anything less than the Level 3 is unacceptable to our organization. Further, first response can often reduce the severity and duration to a workplace injury and it is in keeping with this that we oppose the proposed changes.

As well, health and safety is a joint responsibility, with a joint committee in place at all our operations. We suggest that it be the joint committee members that do the workplace assessment if Sec. 3.16 is adopted, this is not suggesting we support the changes.

Lastly, it is open to interpretation as to what is meant by the term "On the whole low risk." This is in regards to determining the workplace risk. When an employer combines a high risk work area and another lower risk area this could in fact create an inadequate level of first aid coverage. These drastic proposals will do nothing to reduce the duration or severity of workplace accidents in the future.

We urge you to maintain the hazard class with the according First Aid Levels attached.

Respectfully submitted:

Les Veale
Chairman, IWA Canada National Safety Council

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