

Maclean(Gannon), Christine

From: WorkSafeBC [prevweb@worksafebc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2007 8:48 PM
To:
Subject: SPAM: Your submission has been received - #070502

Submission ID: P09.QM6.C52.6JT

Part 3: Rights and Responsibilities, relating to occupational first aid

1. Name: Don Wheaton

(a) Feedback is provided: on own behalf

Organization: Job Title:

(b) Feedback is provided: from a worker's perspective

2. E-mail:

3. Feedback:

Section #:Part 3 Rights and Responsibilities

3.16 Basic requirements

Comments:Part 3 Rights and Responsibilities

3.16 Basic requirements

(1) The employer must provide for each workplace such equipment, supplies, facilities, first aid attendants and services as are adequate and appropriate for

(a) promptly rendering first aid to workers if they suffer an injury at work, and

(b) transporting injured workers to medical treatment.

While the regulation seems quite clear that first aid must be rendered promptly, the guideline confuses the issue by stating that:

Backup for absent first aid attendant

Absences from the workplace by first aid attendants may be planned (such as vacations or medical appointments) or unplanned (such as traveling with an injured worker to hospital or being absent because of sickness). Since it is foreseeable that planned and unplanned absences will occur, the employer will be expected to have a procedure for dealing with them.

Where planned absences may leave on duty fewer than the required number of attendants, the employer should have a substitute first aid attendant available as soon as the absence commences. With regard to unplanned absences, an absence of up to approximately half a shift is permissible until a replacement attendant is in place.

Where shifts are sometimes 10 and 12 hours in length an absence of up to half a shift is totally unacceptable. In forestry operations, where workers may be hours from the nearest hospital, the absence of a first aid attendant at all is unacceptable.

Recommendation: Employers must have in place substitute first aid attendants for any unplanned absence

4. Please indicate your level of support of the proposed amendments:generally agree

5. If you agree or disagree with the proposed amendments, please provide reason(s):

Section #:3.16

Comments: it should be made completely clear in the regas that a first aid attendant be required at all times regardless of planned or unplanned absences