

Regulations amended for logging loads, traffic control, pump operators, and more

By Lori Guiton, director, Policy, Regulation and Research, WorkSafeBC

There are new updates to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. Employers should review the relevant sections of the Regulation carefully and revise safe work policies and procedures accordingly.

What has changed?

New amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation came into effect on December 1, 2021. The summaries below only provide a brief overview of the changes. Employers must review the sections of the Regulation relevant to their industry, ensure they understand the changes that effect their workplace, and communicate any changes to their health and safety procedures to their workers.

Combustible and flammable liquids

Amendments to Part 5 of the Regulation enhance worker safety in workplaces handling flammable liquids, flammable gases, and combustible liquids by ensuring the following:

- The definition of “flammable liquid” in the Regulation is consistent with the BC Fire Code, and the terms “flammable liquid” and “combustible liquid” are used consistently throughout the Regulation.
- The requirements around ignition sources, grounding, and bonding apply to all liquids and gases that pose a risk of fire or explosion.

These amendments also ensure consistency for flash point temperature ranges, ensure language in the Regulation reflects that the requirements apply to all liquids and gases that can create a risk of fire or explosion, and address the risk of fire or explosion when flammable liquids or gas and certain combustible liquids are transferred using metallic or other conductive containers.



Part 18 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, traffic control, was updated in 2021.

Radiation dose limits

The amendments to Part 7 align the Regulation with the 2011 recommendations from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

The amendments adopt new dose limits for the lens of the eye, and clarify time periods for which workers' occupational doses to ionizing radiation must be assessed. This will ensure workers are protected from developing occupationally induced lens changes, like cataracts, by prescribing dose limits based on current scientific understanding.

Traffic control

The provisions on worker health and safety in Part 18 of the Regulation have been aligned with the latest edition of the Traffic Management Manual for Work on Roadways issued by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Sections in Part 18 were also updated to improve safety for workers who help control traffic in and around a work zone, and for those who work within a work zone.

Changes have been made to most sections of Part 18, and include the following:

- Many new definitions were added, including for types and duration of work (brief, long, and short-duration work; emergent work). These terms are used to determine the specific traffic control requirements in different circumstances.
- A written risk assessment must be conducted for certain types of traffic control. A traffic control plan is required based on the written risk assessment.

- Employers and owners must, to the extent practicable, eliminate or minimize worker exposure to traffic in a work zone. This includes measures such as isolating the work zone using constructed detours, alternative routes, or barriers. If elimination is not practicable, worker exposure to traffic must be minimized by applying control measures such as temporary traffic control devices to protect workers, followed by administrative controls that reduce the number of workers exposed to traffic. Employers may only use traffic control persons after other control measures have been considered and determined to be insufficient to manage traffic in the circumstances.
- There are new requirements for where a traffic control person must be positioned. The use of traffic control persons is also prohibited in certain situations, such as when speed limits are greater than 70 km/h.
- There are new and revised training requirements for all workers involved in controlling traffic, including traffic control persons, traffic assistants, and workers who control traffic at emergency scenes.
- The requirements for supervision of traffic control have been strengthened.

Certification of concrete pump operators

Concrete pumps and placing booms are complex pieces of equipment used in construction and should only be operated by competent workers. Concrete placing requires workers to be in the area of the pump and at the discharge end of the placing boom. Therefore, any incident could pose a high risk of serious injury or death to workers who are working with, or in the vicinity of, the equipment.

The amendments in Part 20 enhance worker safety in construction sites by requiring concrete pump operators to hold a certificate granted by a certification authority designated by WorkSafeBC. Provisions within the Regulation set how the authority is determined as well as how the operator should be assessed and supervised.

The amendments also outline who is responsible for ensuring the concrete pump operators and supervisors can operate the equipment in a competent and safe manner. In the case of a multiple-employer workplace, this responsibility lies with the employer and the prime contractor (or the owner of the workplace if no prime

contractor has been designated, in accordance with section 13 of the *Workers Compensation Act*). If it is not a multiple-employer workplace, then the obligation rests with the employer and the owner of the workplace.

Blasting operations

The purpose of these amendments is to enhance worker safety in and around blasting operations by:

- Addressing changes in blasting technology and associated safe work practices.
- Ensuring consistency with the federal Explosives Act, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, and their associated regulations.
- Introducing new requirements to address identified blasting hazards not previously addressed in Part 21.
- Simplifying language and clarifying requirements.

There are changes throughout the 14 divisions of Part 21, ranging from minor wording changes to significant new requirements. The most significant changes cover planning and conducting blasting operations; certification and qualifications; requirements for continuing professional development; expectations for written notice of project; and new sections on anomalous drill holes, blast site examination, and close proximity blasting.

Arborists and arboriculture

Arboricultural work can be dangerous and has the potential for serious injury or death. It often involves working at heights, relying on the structural integrity of a tree for support, and using sharp tools.

While Part 26 of the Regulation addresses forestry operations and similar activities (including arboricultural work), it did not previously have clear provisions for the range of work activities undertaken by arborists.

Amendments address previous gaps in Part 26 of the Regulation by introducing new requirements for arborists and arboricultural work. These amendments incorporate best practices from various standards, jurisdictions, arboricultural associations, and training programs.

In addition to adding new terminology, the amendments add new sections on planning and conducting activities involving trees and tree-climbing.

Logging truck load securement

In addition to updating terms, the following changes in Part 26 harmonize the OHS Regulation with federal National Safety Code, Standard 10 (NSC 10) and modernize requirements to make load securement safer. The key provisions in the amendments include the following:

- A loaded log transporter must comply with NSC 10 on all on-highway and mixed on- and off-highway routes. This enables operators to use a single securement method.
- Either wrappers or tiedowns can be used on-highway or off-highway.
- Tiedown and wrapper requirements are clarified for “entirely off-highway routes,” with heavier securement requirements for loads longer than 35 ft. (10.7 m), and lighter securement for loads 35 ft. or shorter. The amendments also clarify the requirements for the transportation of a log load without the use of tiedowns or wrappers.
- Tiedowns are required to be marked by the manufacturer with their respective working load limit.
- The bottom layer and side rows of logs in a load may no longer extend beyond two sets of stakes.
- The specifications for stake cables (lines) have changed, based on bunk width.
- Unprocessed logs can now be transported on entirely off-highway hauls providing there are no log limbs that present a risk of injury to a person or impair the safe operation of the log transporter.

Additional amendments in Part 26 include clarifying the requirements related to communication and the process of removing wrappers and tiedowns.

Where can I get more information?

You can find all the details on these changes and more by visiting worksafebc.com/searchable-regulation. See the “Latest updates” on this page to view the amended Regulation sections and the corresponding new and revised OHS Guidelines. You can also review primers on each of the affected sections of the Regulation. They explain the changes and employer responsibilities for complying with them. Use the following search terms on worksafebc.com to find the primers you need:

- [Primer combustible and flammable liquids](#)

- [Primer radiation dose limits](#)
- [Primer traffic control](#)
- [Primer concrete pump operators](#)
- [Primer blasting](#)
- [Primer arborists](#)
- [Primer logging truck load](#)

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