

Revisions to regulations affect five key areas

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On June 3, 2019, a series of amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation came into effect.

Many of these amendments are minor adjustments to update language and spelling, but some may impact employers and workers in a variety of industries. Read on to find out about how these amendments may affect you or your workplace.

What's changed?

Employers and workers should be aware of the following amendments, if they apply to the industry you work in:

- **Safety headgear:** The amendments replace past CSA and ANSI standards with current editions. Employers should ensure that hard hats comply with the updated standards. See Part 8 Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment, section 8.11 — Safety headgear and Part 34 Rope Access, section 34.14 — Safety headgear.
- **Eye and face protection:** The amendments clarify obligations of the employer and worker and provide further guidance to affected stakeholders, such as optometrists and safety protection suppliers. CSA and ANSI standards have been updated to remain consistent with other sections of Part 8 of the Regulation. See Part 8 Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment, sections 8.14–8.18 — Eye and face protection.
- **Formwork and falsework:** The amendments focus on the safe erection, use, and dismantling of concrete formwork, falsework, and reshoring. Overall, they clarify the responsibilities of employers and professional engineers. See Part 20 Construction, Excavation and Demolition, sections 20.17–20.26 — Concrete formwork.
- **Blasting:** The amendments update definitions and wording to address new blasting technology and to clarify requirements for related safe work practices. See Part 21 Blasting Operations, multiple sections — Blasting equipment and practices.



Are your hard hats up to current CSA or ANSI standards? Recent amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation clarify which standards to use.

- **Personal flotation devices (PFDs):** The amendments simplify our buoyancy equipment standards by aligning with Transport Canada requirements. Now, all flotation devices approved by Transport Canada are WorkSafeBC-compliant. To better ensure the safety of crewmembers on commercial fishing vessels, crewmembers must wear PFDs or lifejackets when working on deck and/or working alone. See Part 24 Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations, Sections 24.96.1–3 — Personal flotation devices.

Why are these changes happening?

These changes have gone into effect to ensure the Regulation reflects the latest standards for health and safety in the workplace and to protect the workers of British Columbia from being injured on the job.

Where can you find more information?

If you're an employer in any of the industries impacted by these changes, you will need to review the relevant section of the Regulation carefully to determine what steps must be taken to ensure compliance for the health and safety of your crew.

If you're a worker, you may wish to review the relevant sections of the Regulation to ensure you are working safely and following the regulations. If you have questions, speak with your supervisor or employer.

You can search the entire Occupational Health and Safety Regulation by searching for it on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com). ☺