

Effectiveness Measures - Q2/2021 Reports

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Page	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	x of Year
Regulation Changes				
1	OHS - Wood Dust Policies	<p>At its July 2014 meeting, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved three new Occupational Health and Safety policies:</p> <p>D3-115-3, Employer Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control D3-116-2, Worker Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control D3-117-3, Supervisor Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control</p> <p>The new policies have been developed to identify what WorkSafeBC considers reasonable steps for employers, workers, and supervisors to take in relation to the hazards of combustible wood dust.</p> <p>The employer policy applies to specific classification units for sawmills and wood products manufacturing listed in that policy.</p>	September 1, 2014	7 of 7
Prevention Changes				
2	OHS Compliance Agreements	<p>Instead of issuing an order, WorkSafeBC may, in certain circumstances, enter into a compliance agreement in which an employer voluntarily agrees to correct OHS violations and report back to WorkSafeBC by a certain date. Compliance agreements are offered at WorkSafeBC's discretion, within the limits of the Act and policy. WorkSafeBC will only enter into a compliance agreement if WorkSafeBC believes that the employer will likely fulfill its obligations under the agreement.</p> <p>The finalized OHS Compliance Agreements policy provides additional guidance regarding the compliance agreement provisions in the Workers Compensation Act.</p>	January 1, 2016	6 of 7
Compensation Changes				
3	Mental Disorder Presumption	<p>On July 12, 2018, the Board of Directors approved amendments to Chapter 3 in the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add Item C3-13.10, Section 5.1(1.1) - Mental Disorder Presumption, to reflect the legislative changes introduced by Bill 9; and • revise Item C3-13.00, Section 5.1 - Mental Disorders, by changing how policy defines a traumatic event and clarifying how WorkSafeBC assesses evidence of a traumatic event or significant stressor. 	July 23, 2018	4 of 6

Regulation Change
OHS - Wood Dust Policies

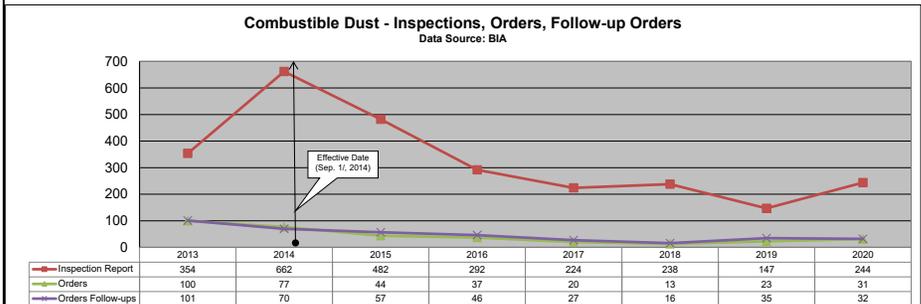
Topic	EFFECTIVE DATE	MEASUREMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS
<p>At its July 2014 meeting, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved three new Occupational Health and Safety policies:</p> <p>D3-115-3, Employer Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control D3-116-2, Worker Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control D3-117-3, Supervisor Duties — Wood Dust Mitigation and Control</p> <p>The new policies have been developed to identify what WorkSafeBC considers reasonable steps for employers, workers, and supervisors to take in relation to the hazards of combustible wood dust.</p> <p>The employer policy applies to specific classification units for sawmills and wood products manufacturing listed in that policy.</p>	September 1, 2014	<p>WorkSafeBC has developed policies to provide a consistent legal framework to identify what WorkSafeBC considers reasonable steps for employers, workers, and supervisors to meet their duties with respect to combustible wood dust hazards.</p>

Reporting:

One Time Report

Multiple Reporting Years:

6 of 7 yrs (2015-2021)



Note: This data set is based on the employers that are part of the combustible dust inspection initiative.
 Note (2016): Previously, data was only shown as per section 5.18. An adjustment was made to include section 115(1)(a) reflecting current and prior years above.
 Note (2020): New regulation WCA21(1)(a) - formerly 115(1)(a). Measurement changed to use data of 8 CUs to count the results, prior years have been restated.

2015 Discussion:

It is relatively early to establish effectiveness. Next reporting will encompass an additional year (2015) of data and will help us understand further the effectiveness of the change.

2016 Discussion:

As per the Prevention department, there has been a significant improvement in compliance relating to combustible wood dust hazards, thereby resulting in a decreased amount of orders being given out over the past 2 years. The focus has been on ensuring employers meet their obligation to control combustible dust hazards through compliant and sustainable combustible dust management programs.

2017 Discussion:

In 2016, WorkSafeBC continued its focus on combustible dust and undertook formal inspection initiatives to verify compliance with combustible dust requirements and to ensure the presence of effective combustible dust management programs in all BC sawmills. Prevention Officers continued with unannounced inspections in order to verify the presence of effective and sustainable combustible dust programs in all operating sawmills. In support of this focus, Officers also engaged in education, consultation and enforcement activities. Significant progress and tangible improvements have been made through our work and the work of employers, workers, unions and other stakeholders to ensure the hazard of combustible dust is being managed.

2018 Discussion:

In 2017, WorkSafeBC continued its Manufacturing High Risk Strategy & Sawmill Inspection Initiative – Designated officers conducting combustible dust specific inspections at all operating sawmills. Prevention Officers continued with unannounced inspections in order to verify the presence of effective and sustainable combustible dust management programs and in support of this focus continued to engage in education, consultation and enforcement activities.

2019 Discussion:

In 2018, WorkSafeBC continued its Manufacturing High Risk Strategy & Sawmill Inspection Initiative. Prevention Officers continued with unannounced inspections in order to verify the presence of effective and sustainable combustible dust management programs and in support of this focus continued to engage in education, consultation and enforcement activities.

2020 Discussion:

In 2019, as part of the Manufacturing High Risk Strategy & Sawmill Inspection Initiative, a group of selected sawmills received at least one inspection by the combustible dust team officers. The focus has been on ensuring employers meet their obligation to control combustible dust hazards through compliant and sustainable combustible dust management programs. The number of orders given out has remained low.

2021 Discussion:

In 2020, WorkSafeBC continued its Manufacturing High Risk Strategy & Sawmill Inspection Initiative. There was an increase in inspection reports returning to pre-2019 numbers, with an increase in orders from 23 in 2019 to 31 in 2020, and a slight decrease in orders follow-ups. Prevention officers continued with the inspections with the focus of identification of hazards and risks, implementing effective and compliant controls, and ensuring employers meet their obligation to control combustible dust hazards through compliant and sustainable combustible dust management programs. Since 2013, we have seen the compliance rate in sawmills improve from 58% to 89% in 2020. The Manufacturing High Risk Strategy & Sawmill Inspection Initiative continues to be an integral part of the Prevention High Risk Strategy.

2015 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2016.

2016 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2017.

2017 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2018.

2018 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2019.

2019 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2020.

2020 Conclusion:

Next reporting Q2-2021.

2021 Conclusion:

Final report.

OHS Compliance Agreements

TOPIC	EFFECTIVE DATE	MEASUREMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS
<p>Instead of issuing an order, WorkSafeBC may, in certain circumstances, enter into an OHS Compliance Agreement ("CA") in which an employer voluntarily agrees to correct OHS violations and report back to WorkSafeBC by a certain date. If employers do not fulfil their obligations under the CA, then the CA is cancelled and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, an order is written. CAs are offered at WorkSafeBC's discretion, within the limits of the Act and policy. WorkSafeBC will only enter into a CA if WorkSafeBC believes that the employer will likely fulfill its obligations under the agreement.</p> <p>The finalized OHS Compliance Agreements policy provides additional guidance regarding the CA provisions in the Workers Compensation Act.</p>	<p>January 1, 2016</p>	<p>The OHS Compliance Agreement policy will be effective if it provides WorkSafeBC staff and stakeholders with clear guidance regarding how CAs are implemented and helps officers promote compliance with OHS obligations.</p> <p>One measurement of effectiveness for this policy is anecdotal feedback about the policy from WorkSafeBC staff and stakeholders. Effectiveness may also be measured by tracking what percentage of OHS Compliance Agreements result in an outcome of employer compliance.</p>
<p>Reporting:</p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> One Time Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Reporting Years: 6 of 7 yrs (2016-2022)</p>		
<p><u>2016 Discussion:</u> It is too early to establish the effectiveness of this change.</p>		
<p><u>2017 Discussion:</u> As of March 31, 2017, WorkSafeBC had entered into 47 OHS Compliance Agreements. Anecdotal feedback suggests that OHS Compliance Agreements can be an effective tool; use of OHS Compliance Agreements is increasing as WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers become more accustomed to it. It is anticipated that systems improvements making OHS Compliance Agreements easier to use will assist in further use of the tool.</p>		
<p><u>2018 Discussion:</u> In 2017, 37 CAs were issued. 21 of these CAs have been complied with, and one was cancelled. 15 are outstanding (in other words, have not yet been completed by the employer but not yet cancelled).</p>		
<p><u>2019 Discussion:</u> In 2018, 41 CAs were issued. 31 of these CAs have been complied with. 10 are outstanding (in other words, have not yet been completed by the employer but not yet cancelled). System improvements have enabled Prevention Officers to select CAs as an appropriate tool to promote compliance.</p>		
<p><u>2020 Discussion</u> In 2019, 25 CAs were issued. 16 of these CAs have been complied with. 9 are outstanding. Of the 41 CAs issued in 2018, all have been complied with by the employer. Officer practice directives have also been updated to provide clear guidance on the use of CAs.</p>		
<p><u>2021 Discussion</u> In 2020, there were no CAs issued. CAs are issued at the officer's discretion and are usually connected with specific prevention initiatives. Due to the pandemic and the realignment of work priorities in 2020, work was focused on sustainable compliance activities only. This included conducting follow-up inspections on IRs to ensure employers remained in compliance with past non-compliance violations. Of the 25 CAs issued in 2019, 16 complied in 2019, 8 complied in 2020, and 1 cancelled in 2020.</p>		
<p><u>2016 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2017.</p>		
<p><u>2017 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2018.</p>		
<p><u>2018 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2019.</p>		
<p><u>2019 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2020.</p>		
<p><u>2020 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2021.</p>		
<p><u>2021 Conclusion:</u> Next reporting Q2-2022.</p>		

Mental Disorders Presumption

TOPIC/PART	EFFECTIVE DATE	MEASUREMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS
<p>On July 12, 2018, the Board of Directors approved amendments to Chapter 3 in the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add Item C3-13.10, Section 5.1(1.1) - Mental Disorder Presumption, to reflect the legislative changes introduced by Bill 9; and • revise Item C3-13.00, Section 5.1 - Mental Disorders, by changing how policy defines a traumatic event and clarifying how WorkSafeBC assesses evidence of a traumatic event or significant stressor. 	<p>July 23, 2018</p>	<p>We will know we have been effective if the total volume of allowed mental disorder claims increases. Approximately 70% of first responder groups are currently accepted (compared to 20% for all workers).</p>
<p>Reporting:</p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> One Time Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Reporting Years: 4 of 6 yrs (2018 - 2023)</p>		
<p><u>2018 Discussion:</u></p>		
<p>On mental disorder claims adjudicated under the mental disorder presumption provided in subsection 5.1(1.1) of the Act, where an allow/disallow decision was made, around 90% were allowed. (BIA advises that the sample numbers used for this estimate are relatively small, and that this 90% rate will fluctuate over time as eligibility decisions continue to be updated.)</p>		
<p><u>2019 Discussion:</u></p>		
<p>Mental disorder claims reported by the five eligible occupations (correctional officers, emergency medical assistants (e.g. paramedics), firefighters (assigned primarily to fire suppression duties), police officers and sheriffs) increased by 38% in 2018, compared with 2017. In 2018, 95% of claims were allowed on mental disorder claims adjudicated under the presumptive clause in section 5.1 (1.1) of the Act, where an allow/disallow decision was made.</p>		
<p><u>2020 Discussion:</u></p>		
<p>Mental Disorder claims reported to WorkSafeBC increased by 24% in 2019. In 2019, on mental disorder claims adjudicated under the presumption, where an allow/disallow decision was made, 94% of claims were allowed. This compares to 63% claims allowed, on all mental disorder claims where an allow/disallow decision was made. 5,440 new mental disorder claims were reported to WorkSafeBC. 3,646 claims proceeded to an allow or disallow decision – of these 2,310 were allowed and 1,346 were disallowed. Of the claims that proceeded to an allow or disallow decision, 539 were adjudicated under the presumption - 506 were allowed and 33 were disallowed. This is an increase from 2018, when 182 claims were adjudicated under the presumption - 173 were allowed and 9 were disallowed.</p>		
<p><u>2021 Discussion:</u></p>		
<p>Of the mental disorder claims registered in 2020, there were 2,218 mental disorder claims allowed by WorkSafeBC (compared to 2,310 in 2019). Of those, 535 were adjudicated under the presumptive clause [section 135(2)] of the Act (compared to 506 in 2019). While mental disorder claims reported and allowed declined slightly in 2020 (-1% and -4.0% respectively), the number and proportion of allowed claims adjudicated under the presumptive clause increased in 2020. Workers in the eligible occupations with mental disorder claims are seeing an increase in allowed claims under the mental disorder presumption.</p>		
<p><u>2018 Conclusion:</u></p>		
<p>Next reporting Q2-2019.</p>		
<p><u>2019 Conclusion:</u></p>		
<p>Next reporting Q2-2020.</p>		
<p><u>2020 Conclusion:</u></p>		
<p>Next reporting Q2-2021.</p>		
<p><u>2021 Conclusion:</u></p>		
<p>Next reporting Q2-2022.</p>		