

Insight

March 2019



2019 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Amendments will be effective June 2019



New policies for Certificate of Recognition Program

Policies apply to all decisions made on or after January 1, 2019



New surveillance policy

New policy for the appropriate use of surveillance



Public consultation on proposed merits and justice policy amendments

Provide feedback on proposed policy amendments



On the cutting edge of safety

New research for protecting urban arborists

Did you know?

Research Services is accepting applications from graduate students for our Research Training Awards grant competition. Learn more at worksafebc.com.

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WORK SAFE BC

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2019 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

At its January 2019 meeting, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to the OHS Regulation. In addition, the Board of Directors approved consequential changes to item R20.17-1 of the *Prevention Manual* as a result of the amendment to Part 20 of the OHS Regulation.

These amendments to the following will become effective on June 3, 2019:

- Parts 8 and 34, sections 8.11(2) and 34.14(d), Safety Headgear
- Part 8, Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment, sections 8.14 – 8.18, eye and face protection
- Part 20, Construction, Excavation and Demolition, sections 20.1, 20.16.1 – 20.16.2, and 20.17 – 20.26, concrete formwork and falsework, with consequential changes to item R20.17-1
- Part 21, Blasting Operations, sections 21.1, 21.3, 21.24, 21.55, 21.58 – 21.63, 21.63.1, 21.67, 21.69, 21.71 – 21.73, and 21.84
- Parts 8 and 24, Buoyancy Equipment for Fishing Operations, sections 8.29, 24.1, 24.69, 24.96.1 – 24.96.3, and 24.128
- Parts 20, 23, 24, 26, and 34, Various topics, sections 20.47(2), 23.22(a), 24.21(1), 34.4(1)(a)(i), and Table 26-8, housekeeping amendments
- Parts 5, 23, and 29, Chemical Agents and Biological Agents, Oil and Gas, Aircraft Operations, sections 5.27(3), 23.63(6), and 29.16(2), prime contractor

You can access the Board of Directors decision, along with explanatory notes and stakeholder feedback, on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).

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New policies for Certificate of Recognition Program

The Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program is a voluntary employer certification program designed to encourage employers in B.C. to take a proactive role in occupational health and safety. Employers registered in the COR Program who meet program requirements achieve a COR, and may be eligible to receive a financial incentive.

On November 22, 2018, the Board of Directors approved new policies for the COR Program: item AP1-42-4 of the *Assessment Manual* and item D2-111-4 of the *Prevention Manual*. The policies apply to all decisions made on or after January 1, 2019, except for financial incentive decisions relating to a violation of the *Workers Compensation Act* (the Act) or the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation that occurred before January 1, 2019.

The interim policies will continue to apply as if unexpired, but only in respect to financial incentive decisions relating to a violation of the Act or the OHS Regulation that occurred before January 1, 2019.

[View the Board of Directors' decision.](#)

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New surveillance policy

In January 2018, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors commissioned an external compensation policy review. The resulting report, *Restoring the Balance: A Worker-Centred Approach to Workers' Compensation Policy*, was published in April 2018 and contained a number of recommendations. Recommendation #41 was for WorkSafeBC to consider implementing a policy for the appropriate use of video surveillance.

On January 23, 2019, the Board of Directors approved new policy item #97.70, Surveillance, of the *Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual*, Volume II. The new policy applies on or after March 1, 2019.

[View the Board of Directors' decision.](#)

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Public consultation on proposed merits and justice policy amendments

The Policy Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) conducts extensive public consultation on the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and policy amendments. The PRRD is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on amendments to policy item #2.20, Application of the Act and Policies, in the *Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual*, Volume II.

The PRRD proposes to amend the policy to further emphasize that decision-making must be based upon the merits and justice of the case. Non-substantive changes would also be made to the policy for clarity and consistency.

How to provide feedback

The PRRD has released a discussion paper with options and draft policy, available on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com). We invite you to provide feedback through our online form or via email, mail, or fax.

The Board of Directors will consider all stakeholder feedback before making a decision on the proposed amendments.

Stakeholder feedback will be accepted until March 29, 2019.

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On the cutting edge of safety: New research for protecting urban arborists

As someone who grew up in a logging family in Rivers Inlet, then worked in silviculture and urban forestry, Kwantlan Polytechnic University student researcher Shawn Michaels has been around dangerous equipment for most of his life. After almost losing a leg on the job, he was inspired to improve the protective clothing arborists rely on to guard against injury.

"I kept my leg because of the ballistic nylon cutter pant I was wearing," Shawn says. "I realized how vulnerable I was to an upper body chainsaw injury the very first time I spurred up and roped into a tree to cut it down 14 years ago. A mistake with a chainsaw could be life-changing — even fatal. It inspired me to think of ways to protect arborists at work."

Urban arborists face a variety of unique risks and hazards, such as working on busy roads where they are at risk of being struck by vehicles.

WorkSafeBC Innovation at Work Research grant

Shawn began to develop a protective jacket as part of his university undergraduate program at the [Wilson School of Design](#). In 2018, Shawn applied for a WorkSafeBC Innovation at Work grant. Receiving the grant allowed him to move the project forward, with the assistance of his supervisor, KPU faculty member and ergonomist Dr. Dan Robinson.

Early phases of the research included prototyping and fit testing, as well as interviews with industry experts. Next steps were to acquire rated textiles for prototyping and design development of a protective jacket. The jacket uses woven Kevlar and other textiles that are flexible, light enough to allow the wearer to remain as cool as possible, and exceed standards for visibility. Michaels is now preparing to build 12 samples for destructive testing, in accordance with ISO standard 11393.

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The work revealed some surprises. First, no one in the world seemed to be manufacturing upper-body chainsaw protection when Shawn's research began. And second, while forestry is such an important industry in British Columbia, the province has not been at the forefront of developing protective gear for chainsaw operators.

"WorkSafeBC has facilitated one of the greatest opportunities of my life," Shawn says. "I carefully use the peer review feedback on our proposal as a guide whenever possible —the 'keep it simple' advice has been so helpful."

WorkSafeBC 2019 Research Priorities

Research Services supports occupational health and safety research through a competitive grant program and other initiatives. For 2019, we are continuing to focus on emerging issues. Visit worksafebc.com to review our research priorities and to learn about upcoming funding opportunities.