

Insight

October 2017



2018-2020 workplan consultation coming soon

WorkSafeBC is preparing for consultation on three workplans this fall.



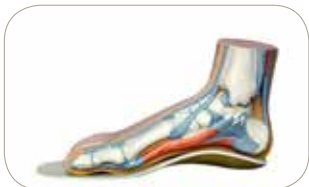
New storage rack regulations

Resources are available to help you prepare for the changes coming January 1, 2018.



Welcoming a new senior manager and senior policy and legal advisor

Meet Poonam Bhatti and Mariana Storoni.



Innovation at Work: Recently funded projects

Read about the grant recipients and their projects.

Did you know?

The request for proposals for the 2018 Innovation at Work competition will launch on November 3, 2017. Learn more at worksafebc.com.

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2018-2020 workplan consultation coming soon

Public consultation is central to the way we do business at WorkSafeBC. The Policy, Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) engages directly with stakeholders to ensure transparency and effectiveness when developing the policies and regulations that govern occupational health and safety, compensation, and assessments.

Every year, the PRRD consults with stakeholders to help us establish priorities for our policy and regulation workplans. These priorities guide our work, but adjustments are occasionally made to address concerns that arise from stakeholder reviews and from decisions made by the Board of Directors.

The PRRD is preparing to consult on three workplans this fall: the 2018-2020 Compensation and Occupational Disease Policy Priorities Workplan, the Assessment Policy Priorities Workplan, and the OHS Policy Priorities Workplan.

View the [current 2016-2018 workplans](#) on [worksafebc.com](#).

Stay tuned for more information on the consultation period and how you can provide feedback.

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New storage rack regulations

At their meeting on March 30, 2017, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amending the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation by adding section 4.43.1, storage racks.

The new B.C. storage rack regulation takes effect January 1, 2018. This regulation governs the installation, inspection, use, and maintenance of steel storage racks. It excludes shelving and display fixtures used for retail purposes.

WorkSafeBC has developed the following [resources](#) to help you understand and prepare for the change:

- Frequently asked questions on storage rack regulations
- Regulatory change: A primer on new storage rack regulations
- OHS Guideline G4.43.1 - Storage racks

The [Related law & policy](#) page provides further details.

For more information, you may contact the health and safety prevention line at 1.888.621.7233.

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Welcoming a new senior manager and senior policy and legal advisor

The Policy, Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) is pleased to announce that Poonam Bhatti has taken on a senior management position in our division. She holds a law degree from the University of Victoria and a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of British Columbia. Poonam joined WorkSafeBC in 2007 as a research analyst, making key contributions to many complex occupational health and safety regulation projects. Quickly promoted to policy analyst and then senior policy analyst, she also contributed to special projects in the area of complaint tracking and resolution, as well as the [Macatee report](#).

The newest member of the PRRD team is Mariana Storoni, who joins us as a senior policy and legal advisor. In 2008, she joined WorkSafeBC in the regulatory practices department as a senior prevention advisor, after working at Lawson Lundell law firm for two years. Mariana graduated from the University of British Columbia with degrees in law and chemistry. Mariana is keen to apply her skills and professional experience to the complex work the PRRD does.

"Both Poonam and Mariana have impressive skill sets," says Lori Guiton, director of the PRRD. "Poonam's knowledge and expertise will serve her well in her new management role and Mariana's prevention experience complement the talents and capabilities of our staff. I'm excited to work with them as they take on the challenges of their new roles."

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Innovation at Work: Recently funded projects

Innovation at Work (IAW) research grants provide funding for research projects that support the development of practical, shop floor solutions. These projects are aimed at solving specific problems for workplaces, or putting the latest scientific knowledge into practice.

WorkSafeBC awarded funding to seven projects for 2016 and five projects for 2017. The new projects span a wide variety of topics, sectors, and techniques. More information on the projects outlined below can be found on our website.

“The breadth of topics and ideas that come to us through Innovation at Work help us to see emerging topics in occupational health and safety,” says Lori Guiton, director of the Policy, Regulation, and Research Division. “We especially want to foster the development of research partnerships between workplace-based experts and professional researchers. That’s when some of the most exciting innovations happen.”

Our 2018 IAW competition will launch on November 3, 2017. Please check the website for more information and to learn how to apply for funding.

Testing new approaches

Recently funded IAW projects that test new approaches to workplace health and safety include:

- Testing the effectiveness of cognitive rehearsal therapy as a proactive and early anti-bullying intervention for nursing students
- Developing an app to manage shift work fatigue in nurses
- Evaluating the effectiveness of a wearable technology device to accurately assess the validity of chest compressions during CPR training at St. John’s Ambulance

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Evaluating programs

IAW projects also include program evaluation, such as:

- Evaluating health, safety, and wellness programs available to long-haul truck drivers in B.C., and identifying real and perceived barriers to adopting healthier behaviours
- Reviewing the potential impact of legislative, regulatory, policy, and practice measures on disability management and return to work
- Identifying workplace events that may increase the risk of developing PTSD in workers at psychiatric hospitals, and the potential barriers these workers may have to accessing support
- Developing a method for employers to conduct a needs assessment for emergency medical workers to customize resilience training programs aimed at reducing PTSD

Lab-based research with practical applications

Some IAW projects are lab-based studies that will contribute to worker health in the future. These include:

- Creating novel techniques for improving the healing of burn injuries and wounds
- Examining the health effects of inhaling metal-based nanoparticles in workers in welding and shipbuilding operations
- Looking at the association, if any, between weight bearing and plantar fasciitis with the goal of identifying at-risk worker populations
- Measuring the level of radiation exposure to the eyes of veterinary workers during small animal diagnostic radiology and fluoroscopy procedures
- Developing rapid, simple DNA sequencing methods for identifying bacterial and viral pathogens in emergency medical services environments (such as ambulances) to reduce exposure to contaminants