

Regulatory amendment: A primer on certification of concrete pump operators

In July 2021, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved changes to sections of Part 20 relating to concrete pump operation, in the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation. These amendments took effect on December 1, 2021.

Background

Concrete pumps and placing booms are complex pieces of equipment used in construction, which should only be operated by competent workers. Concrete placing activity 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.

Although the *Workers Compensation Act* requires workers to be trained in order to ensure their safety and the safety of others at the workplace, there were previously no specific competency requirements in the OHS Regulation for concrete pump operators.

Objective of the regulatory amendments

The purpose of the amendments is to enhance worker safety in construction sites by requiring concrete pump operators to hold a certificate granted by a certification authority designated by WorkSafeBC.

Overview of changes

On and after January 1, 2024, no one may operate a concrete pump or placing boom at a workplace unless they hold a valid concrete pump operator certificate issued by a certification authority approved by WorkSafeBC. The training must be specific to the

class or type of concrete pump or placing boom being operated.

Alternatively, the equipment can be operated by someone under the supervision of a certified operator.

(Updated, July 2023) Currently, the Certified Concrete Pump Operator Program from the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) is the only WorkSafeBC-approved certification program. To learn more and register, visit their website: [Certified Concrete Pump Operator](#).

Responsibility for ensuring concrete pump operators and supervisors can operate the equipment in a competent and safe manner is as follows:

- In the case of a multiple-employer workplace, 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, the employer and the owner of the workplace are responsible.

More details about the training requirements for concrete pump operators can be found in the revised Part 20 of the OHS Regulation.

Employer responsibilities

All employers, owners, and prime contractors who have work that requires concrete pump operations need to review the revised regulatory requirements to ensure their work practices are compliant.

For more information

Visit worksafebc.com to read the amended Part 20 of the [OHS Regulation](#) and the corresponding [OHS guidelines](#).

Visit our website for additional information and updates: [Concrete pump operator certification](#).