

# OHS NEWS

## WORKPLACE SAFETY IS EVERYONES' CONCERN

OCTOBER 2013

### *OHS training: What do you need to do?*

Training is an integral component within many OHS regulatory requirements. It is part of the Employers' precaution and duties, section 13(1) (c), of the Occupational Health and Safety Act; and it is a component of the defined term 'competent person' used within the regulations.

Everyone agrees that training is important and good; however, questions do arise as to what constitutes training. Is simply showing someone how to operate machinery training? What about having someone job shadow an experienced employee? Can on-line course be considered training?

Some of the regulations or a standard cited in the regulations will outline components or knowledge that training should encompass. Also, some jobs require a particular certification or license and in these cases the training is much more formalized.

The NS Occupational Health and Safety Regulations do not specifically require that training be provided by a particular or approved provider. The regulations use term 'competent person'; and define competent as having knowledge, training and experience in the assigned work **AND** knowledgeable of the OHS regulations that apply to that work.

The training may be provided by outside trainers or training organizations or in-house. Whichever you decide upon, you will need to assess the activity (it's complexity, risks and hazards) and determine the appropriate level of training. You need to ensure the training is: detailed; if appropriate contains some kind of appropriate demonstration (practical); and has some follow-up to confirm workers apply the training properly (testing and supervision).

A potential resource in developing a robust training program is [CSA Z1001—OHS Training Standard](#).

A strong training program will contribute to your employees' well-being and health and ensure you meet your legal duties.

### *Conveyors—recognize the hazards*

Conveyors are common in many workplaces and certainly within the manufacturing sector.

Conveyors commonly come in three types: belt/chain conveyors; roller conveyors; and screw/auger conveyors.

As convenient as conveyors are, they may also be a cause of seri-

ous injury if not properly safeguarded and operated.

With regards to specific regulatory requirements for conveyors these are contained in Part 8—Mechanical Safety of the [Occupational Safety General Regulations](#), sections 93-96.

To determine what haz-

ards may be associated with your conveyor undertake a risk/hazard assessment. What are the types of activities that take place around the conveyor? Are there pinch points or entanglement points? How is power transmitted? Can material fall off the conveyor?

Where there are belts or

chains these need to be guarded. Where feasible do not do maintenance/repair work, or clear jams on the conveyors unless they are locked out.

For further information: [Conveyors-Safety](#) (CCOHS) [Safeguarding Conveyors](#) (WorkSafeBC)

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## Cross Canada Hazard Alerts

Excerpts from a selection of Hazard Alerts issued by Provincial Jurisdictions across Canada. They are presented to raise awareness of potentially similar issues at your workplace.

### **British Columbia** **Improper use of lifeline (full alert)**

A new worker died when the self-retracting lifeline broke when he fell through a gap in a metal roof. On investigation WorkSafeBC determined the cable broke because of incorrect use of the lifeline. The lifeline was designed to be anchored

above the worker's head and used vertically. Instead it was anchored on the same level as the worker—horizontally. The cable extended across the roof and was caught on the roof's sharp metal edges. Ensure that your employees are trained and use all PPE as per the appropriate regulations and/or the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Prince Edward Island** **Roof Truss Collapse (full alert)**

Worker were injured resulting from a roof truss collapse. The truss system had

been installed and braced; ready for sheathing. Several piles of sheathing had been loaded onto the truss system which as it turns out exceed the weight the individual trusses were designed to support. The loaded trusses began to roll and collapsed the entire system. Ensure that you follow manufacturer's recommendations and that all workers, supervisors know and understand the procedures.

### **New Brunswick** **Old Equipment (full alert)**

A New Brunswick worker

was fatally injured when his clothing was entangled in shaft being turned on a lathe. On investigation it was noted the lathe was an older model that had been modified and did not safety features of newer lathes. In Nova Scotia Mechanical Safety is covered in Part 8 of the [Occupational Safety General Regulations](#). Older equipment can still be productive but ensure that it can be operated safely, that missing safeguards are installed and that operators are aware of modifications and trained.

## FYI: Do Fall Protection Plans/Safe Work Procedures have to be on site?

We have received questions regarding whether Fall Protection Plans or Safe-Work Procedures needed to be on site.

It is required, but may not be readily apparent in reading the regulation.

A single clause 1.8, was created in the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#), that requires all policies, plans and codes of practice that are applicable to the work be made available at the applicable work area at all times.

This is a general clause that applies to all requirements regarding policies, plans and codes of practice, not just

Fall Protection requirements.

An excerpt for this requirement reads:

*Communicating and updating policies, procedures, plans and codes of practice*

### 1.8

(1) In addition to any specific requirements under the Act, an employer must ensure that all policies, procedures, plans and codes of practice are:

(a) made available at the applicable work area at all times

(b) reviewed with any affected persons, including any person planning work, before work is undertaken

(b)\* updated whenever conditions affecting work change.

[\*Clause lettering as in original.]

(2) Before any work is undertaken, an employer must ensure that the necessary information, instruction, training, supervision, facilities and equipment are provided to implement any part of a policy, procedure, plan or code of practice applicable to a workplace.”

Also, it should be noted that these general require-

ments in the WHS Regulations are applicable to all workplaces to which the OHS Act applies; as per section 1.3 of the WHSR:

### 1.3

These regulations apply to all workplaces to which the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* applies, unless otherwise expressly provided in the Act or these regulations

Finally, when you do have these plans, safe work procedures, policies etc. on site, ensure that all supervisors and workers know what they say and where they may be found.

## FYI—What are TLV's

TLV or threshold limit value is a term used by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

TLVs together with biological exposure indices (BEIs) are published annually by the ACGIH.

How does this impact you and your business? TLVs and BEIs are cited in [Part 2-Occupational Health, of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#). This section requires an employer to comply with the limits for exposure to all of the following, as listed in the TLVs and BEIs:

- Gases
- Vapours

- Mists
- Fumes
- Smoke
- Dust
- Chemical substances
- Physical agents.

Employers should note that the ACGIH annually reviews these limits and may change them; thereby changing the requirement within the regulation.

In 2013 the following had changes:

- Butane, all isomers
- Clopidol
- 2,4-D
- Diethylene glycol mono-butyl ether

- N,N-Diethylhydroxylamine
- Ethyl tert-butyl ether
- Manganese, elemental and inorganic
- 1-Methoxy-2-propanol
- Methyl isoamyl ketone
- Tributyl phosphate

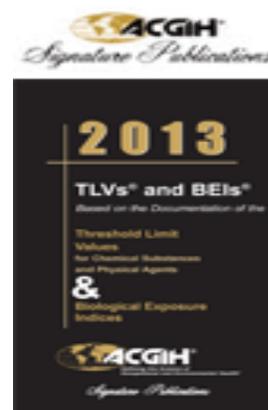
Also the Biological Exposure Indexes changed for the following:

- Mercury, elemental
- Methyl ethyl ketone
- Naphthalene

Before any changes are made the ACGIH posts proposed changes on their website. To view the proposed changes go to [Notice of Intended Changes](#).

The ACGIH also has an 'under study' page that may be viewed here [Under Study List](#).

The TLVs and BEIs booklet is a copyrighted publication and may be purchased through the ACGIH website—[2013 TLVs and BEIs](#).



## FYI—Record Fine imposed in Ontario Mining Fatalities

A record fine of \$ 1.05 million imposed in Ontario for Mine fatalities. Two underground mine workers transferring muck through a transfer gate they were operating using a remote control pendant.

In spite of a protected area for workers being in this location, the workers had to be in front of the transfer gate in order to view the movement and operate the remote control.

A sudden, uncontrolled release of muck, sand, water through the gate buried one worker and hit the other.

On investigation the Ministry of Labour determined the hang-up of muck was a result of the mining company not dealing with on-going water issues in the mine.

The company pled guilty to 3 safety violations and fined \$350,000 for each violation—the highest total fine (\$1.05 million) levied for OHS violation in Ontario.

[Ministry of Labour News Release \(September 17, 2013\)](#)

While your business may not be mining, the findings of the Ministry applies to any business—*Not dealing or addressing known potential health and safety issues.*

It is not only important to have hazard identification systems within your workplace, but these identified hazards must be addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

Simply developing 'work-around' procedures or ignoring the issues is not acceptable as this court case and others have shown.

**LABOUR AND ADVANCED  
EDUCATION**

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For further information come see us on  
the Web at:

<http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/>

or our OHS Knowledgebase  
[Knowledgebase](#)

*FYI—CSA access*

A view access to all CSA standards, cited in Canadian jurisdiction legislation, is available on our OHS Home Page.

The link, [CSA Standards](#), (top right of OHS homepage) has been reorganized and is referred to as CSA Communities. Aside from access to the Standards, CSA Communities is meant to keep you informed of activities and reports that CSA is undertaking.

Once you create an account (free), a simple process of submitting an e-mail address and creating a username and password, you will have view access (read only, cannot print or save) to the Standards.

*FYI— Halloween Safety*

October 31st, Halloween, falls on a weekday this year, so please be aware of children trick or treating.

While there are a number of events in numerous communities that are aimed at providing safe alternatives to neighborhood trick or treating, there are still many who will be walking along streets.

As drivers please pay special attention, be aware of children possibly darting across roads to get to houses and Halloween loot.

Remember that some costumes and masks can restrict vision or movement.

Other considerations (from [Progressive Insurance](#))

- Drive slow and don't pass stopped vehicles—they may be dropping off children
- Yield to pedestrians
- Use turn signals or hazard lights if stopped

Health Canada also has a general information page on [Halloween Safety](#).

*Links to related agencies:*

- [Nova Scotia WCB](#)
- [Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal \(WCAT\)](#)
- [Workers' Advisers Program \(WAP\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance System \(WSIS\)](#)
- [Office of the Employer Advisor Nova Scotia](#)
- [Service Canada / Français](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\) / Français](#)
- [CanOSH \(Canada's National Workplace Health and Safety Website\) / Français](#)