

OHS NEWS

WORKPLACE SAFETY IS EVERYONES' CONCERN

AUGUST 2012

Update: Consultations on Regulations to the OHS Act



The Occupational Health and Safety Division would like to thank everyone who contributed to the consultation on the Occupational Health and Safety General Regulations (OSGRs). A report on the results of the consultation is available on our website at:

www.gov.ns.ca/lae/OHS/ohschanges.asp

The consultation on the proposed Workplace Health and Safety Regulation is currently underway, and will be closing on August 29, 2012.

We encourage you to let us know what you think of these regulations by sending your comments to LAEPolicy@gov.ns.ca by the end of August.

Some Hazards of Working Outside

Stuck working indoors in the summer may have you thinking how lucky those working outside are; however, working outside has its own challenges and hazards.

Insects

No shortage of these in the great outdoors and while small, their impact can be quite big. Among the culprits: bees, wasps, ticks, and mosquitoes.

Beyond any itchiness or stings there is also the hazard of viruses such as West Nile or Lyme Disease, and anaphylactic shock.

Some things you can do are: application of repellents; wearing long sleeved pants and shirts, or possibly bug mesh.

Sun

If you work outdoors know how to protect

yourself from the effects of UV (ultraviolet radiation) exposure. Some things you can do are: wear sun-blocking clothing—hats, pants, long sleeved shirts; wear a good sun block (and reapply it as necessary).

UV exposure isn't the only thing to be aware of; outdoor workers should understand what the symptoms of excessive heat exposure are as well.

Yes, it may be great to have an 'outdoors job' but you still need to be aware of potential hazards and what to do about them.

Links

[West Nile Virus NS](#)

[Communicable Disease Prevention and Control](#)

[Anaphylaxis](#)

[Protecting Workers from Heat Stress](#)—OHSinsider Bongarde

Upcoming/ Current Events:

- ◆ OH&S Regulation Consultation
- ◆ Developing a Workplace Safety Strategy for NS
- ◆ Building and Plumbing Code amendments, in effect September 1, 2012

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Water Safety and Fishery Sector

The last week in July (21—29) was National Drowning Prevention Week.

Throughout the week there was a media campaign of print and radio ads which featured ‘safety champions’ from the fishing industry highlighting the potential dangers and tragic consequences that may happen.

Beyond the focus of this week, the Workers’ Compensation Board and the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia have [several useful facts sheets and resources](#) for both the Commercial Fishing sector and the Processing sector that are aimed at raising awareness and

developing safe practices.

Also in July, a Transportation Safety Board (TSB) report was released highlighting a need for cultural change in the fishing sector.

The report “[Safety Issues Investigation into Fishing Safety in Canada](#)” found several areas of concern ranging from lack of understanding of safety issues among those who set fisheries policies to fatigue to poor understanding of vessel stability; and noted there is no simple solution to the safety problems.

A [‘Fact Sheet’](#) from the Workers’ Compensation Board notes that fishing also has “one

of the highest injury rates overall in Nova Scotia”

As noted in the Fact Sheet, common areas for injuries are:

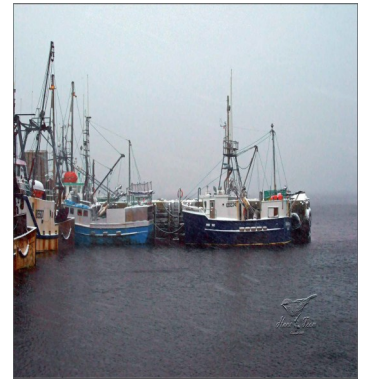
- Musculoskeletal injuries,
- Slips and falls,
- Cuts and lacerations,
- Falling overboard, and
- Confined space.

The Fact Sheet goes on to highlight a variety of common fishing hazards and then offer suggested solutions to them. If you work in the Commercial Fisheries Sector—Harvesting or Processing— make use of these and other safety resources and incorporate the

awareness campaign into a safety culture for you.

[Fisheries Safety Association](#)

[Work Safe. For Life: Fisheries \(WCB\)](#)



Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual Updated

The Temporary Traffic Control Manual, published by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructural Renewal (TIR) has been updated.

The Manual is an accepted Code of Practice under the Occupational Health and Safety Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Regulations.

The Manual is revised periodically and outlines the minimum standards for traffic control at a temporary workplaces on or near roads for which TIR has legal authority.

The Manual is published at [TIR’s web site](#).

NOTE: to ensure you have accessed the correct version the date on the bottom right of the front cover, as well as the Reference # on page 2, must

be “2012.06.01” (the title itself will be “Nova Scotia Temporary Traffic Control Manual 2009”).

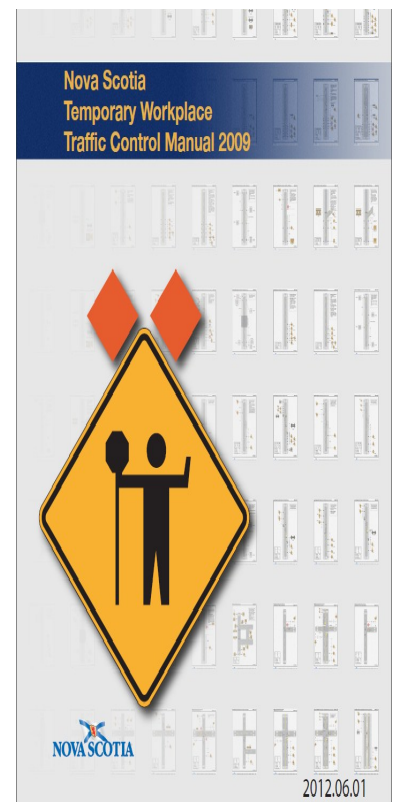
For ease of use the Manual has a green oval with **New:2012** printed within to highlight any significant new or amended entries (those changes the Department deemed to be very minor have not been identified).

Also, where there has been changes to standards or significant content changes the page footer has been updated to “2012”.

The Manual has a listing of the changes in the first several pages. For example it notes changes to the Definitions Sections—new definitions added, as well as any that have been modified.

The Manual is ‘published’ by making it available on line in a *pdf* format; however if you wish to purchase a disk with the Manual on it, or a black and white hard copy, you may do so by contacting Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations:

- E-mail: publications@gov.ns.ca
- Phone: (902) 424-5200 or toll free in NS 1-800-670-4357
- Fax: (902) 424-0516
- Mail: Government Publications, PO Box 637, Halifax, B3J 2T3
- Internet: [SNSMR publications](#) and follow the links
 - Transportation
 - Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual
 - Buy



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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— Ontario company fined \$60,000

A [Scarborough pasta manufacturer](#) was fined \$60,000 after a worker was injured. The worker was injured when his arm was caught in a pasta mixer moving blades, while cleaning the mixer.

On investigation it was found the mixer's electrical interlock switch, a switch that is meant to stop the blades from moving when the mixer is open, was not maintained.

The company plead guilty to failing to ensure the interlock was maintained in good condition.

In Nova Scotia, [Part 8: Mechanical, of the Occupational Safety General Regulations](#)

has various requirements with regards to the operation and maintenance of machines.

An employers' duty is to ensure a machine operator has:

- the knowledge, training and experience to operate the machine safely,
- follows the manufacturer's specifications, and
- does not exceed maximum capacity, speed, depth or any other limitations.

Machines also have to be maintained by competent persons.

Part 8 also has requirements regarding safeguards, barriers, shields and ensuring they are installed and maintained.

Interlocks are also addressed; specifically: If opening an access door exposes moving parts, the access door must be fitted with interlocks that:

- Prevent the door from opening while parts are in motion; or
- Disconnect the power, causing the machine to stop immediately, if the door is opened.

If the access door cannot be fitted with interlocks, the employer must develop a written work procedure.

Ensure that the machines being used in the workplace are being operated and maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions and that all safeguards are working properly.

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](#)