

OHS NEWS

WORKPLACE SAFETY IS EVERYONES' CONCERN

APRIL 2014

2014 ACGIH TLV Booklets in Regional Libraries

The American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has issued its 2014 Threshold Limits Values (TLVs) Booklet.

Part 2, clause 2.3 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*, Occupational Health (formerly the Occupational Health regulations), cites the booklet.

The clause states that an employer is to comply with, and ensure compliance with the threshold limits values for exposure to all of the following, listed in the TLVs and BEIs: gases, vapours, mists, fumes, dust, chemical substances, physical agents.

The Division has provided a 2014 Booklet to each of the 9 Regional Libraries in the province where they will be available for reference. The libraries are:

- Annapolis Valley Regional Library
- Cape Breton Regional Library
- Colchester-East Hants Public Library
- Cumberland Public Libraries
- Eastern Counties Regional Library
- Halifax Public Libraries
- Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library
- South Shore Public Libraries
- Western County Regional Library

ACGIH is a member-based organization, representing government, academia, labour, and private industry, that advances occupational and environmental health. The TLVs (and Biological Exposure Indices or BEIs) booklet is used as a worldwide guide for evaluation and control of workplace exposure to chemical substances and physical agents.

Wind hazard

Portions excerpted from The [Work Safety Hub Blog](#)

As we know, there is no shortage of wind in our fair Province. Do you consider this type of potential workplace hazard?

Strong winds present a definite hazard to workplace safety and needs to be considered; attention should be paid to

forecasts when planning your workday, particularly on construction sites.

Movement of material with cranes or lifts may need to be postponed.

Working off scaffolds would need to be considered as well; again, particularly when moving equipment or mate-

rial that may act as a sail.

If working at heights wear protective gear against falls.

Make sure any structures covered with tarps are secured, as wind filled tarps may pull down unstable structures. Restrain objects that can be blown away

and avoid standing near stacks of materials.

Eye protection might be needed to prevent dust and particles from being blown in to eyes.

Section 13(1)(f) of the Act requires an employer to ensure employees are not exposed to safety hazards.

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Kudos to Agriculture in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Agriculture has been in the Chronicle Herald twice this March with regards to being proactive on the farm safety front.

New Farm Safety Coordinator

In the [March 1 edition of the paper](#) (as reported by Francis Campbell of the Truro Bureau) the Federation of Agriculture announced the hiring of Carolyn Van Den Heuvel as their first full-time farm safety coordinator.

Working through Farm Safety Nova Scotia, a farm driven initiative, they will be coordinating training and education courses to be

made available to farmers to assist them in meeting their requirements.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia goals are:

- Advocacy for farmers on health and safety matters
- Provide resources and information
- Coordinate training and education
- Increase awareness and understanding of OHS requirements
- Promote farm workplace health and safety to farm youth and new entrants

Seasonal Migrant Workers

A more [recent article in the Chronicle Herald](#) (March 11, 2014, Bill Power Business Reporter) highlighted how several farm operators and agriculture officials attended a one day workshop to discuss concerns about migrant worker safety.

Nova Scotia's agricultural sector has been increasingly reliant on seasonal migrant workers.

It can be a challenge for employer to fulfill their OHS duties to provide a safe workplace and instruction and training to workers, with regards to safe opera-

tion of machinery or undertaking work tasks safely, when their first language is not English.

Congratulations to the operators and agriculture officials for taking the initiative to inform themselves on how to better address their OHS responsibilities and provide for a safe work experience for migrant workers.

For additional information please visit the websites of:

[Federation of Agriculture](#)

[Farm Safety Nova Scotia](#)

Public Comment opportunity for CSA Z94.2—Hearing protection devices

Please note that the CSA Standard Z94.2 "Hearing protection devices: performance, selection, care and use" is now available on the CSA website for public review.

Currently the Occupational Safety General Regulations does not specifically cite 'hearing protection' in Part 3 Personal Protective Equipment.

Hearing protection is covered by the general requirement of section 9, which begins by stating that: an employer shall ensure adequate personal protective equipment or devices required for an assigned

task are used. based on the nature of the task; location and conditions of the workplace; and any hazards that may affect the health and safety of persons in the workplace.

However, the Division will be adopting CSA Z94.2 standard in the new PPE section that will be migrated to the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations* at some point in the future (possibly late 2014 or early 2015)

We encourage you to go the following link to review and provide comment to CSA (Note— if you haven't already registered, you will

need to register/create an account—this is a simple process and free) :

[CSA Group Z94.2 Draft Review](#)

The Scope of the Standard notes the types of hearing protection devices covered are: earplugs (including semi-inserts), earmuffs, and helmets (with or without electronic communication capabilities).

Clauses 4 to 7 of the Standard cover performance, acoustical testing and package requirements for the devices. Clauses 8

to 12 cover the selection, care and use of the devices.

Some points in these sections:

- Devices will be used when engineering or administrative controls are not practical or do not reduce noise to acceptable levels
- Elements of a hearing loss prevention program cited
- Selection of types of devices

To comment go to [Z94.2 Draft Review](#)

FYI: Recent incidents

This selection of incidents investigated by our officers serve to encourage you to check and see where you stand with regards to these, or similar issues.

Lack of Communications/Safe Work Procedure

Two employees (trainee and trainer) of a towing company responded to a call of a vehicle being off the road. The employees discussed their approach for retrieving the vehicle prior to exiting their vehicle. Once out of the vehicle the trainee went to one side of the tow truck to retrieve a tool from a tool box under the tow truck deck. At the same time the other employee began operating the deck controls.

When the deck began moving it contacted the tool box door and trapped the trainee's arm. On investigation it was noted that this was the first time this type of incident had occurred and it was most likely due to the operator of the deck not having a visual contact and communication with the trainee. The employer proceeded to undertake an internal incident report and from this proposed several solutions to address the hazard, including safe work procedures requiring no equipment to be operated without eye contact with other workers.

Trip/Fall

An employee fell to the ground when their foot was

caught in the wheel of a cart they were using to move merchandise. Caution should be exercised even when undertaking what appear to be simple tasks.

Fall from height

An employee fell from a height above 10 feet when there was no fall protection on the pump jack scaffold they were working on. On investigation it was apparent there were no guardrails or fall protection in place to prevent the fall as required by [Part 21 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#).

Pinch point

An employee's hand was drawn in towards two steel

rollers and sustained some bruising. On investigation it was noted that while a safe work procedure existed for the task, wrapping cellophane on a pallet, the employee had not been trained in it specifically, but rather shown a demonstration of the task by a fellow employee. In this instance the procedure had not been followed. The employer initiated several changes to the task including: updating Safe Work Procedures and ensuring persons are aware of and trained in the procedure; relocating the emergency stop button; and implementing lock-out procedures for jams or changing rolls.

FYI: Advisory on WHMIS and Violence in the Workplace Training

The Division has received a high volume of calls regarding telemarketing on WHMIS and Violence in the Workplace Training. The telemarketer implies that annual training is required by OHS legislation. This is not the first time we've heard of this and in the past the Division had issued an [Employer Alert regarding High Pressure Sales Tactics](#).

If you wish to inform yourself of the specific education (training) requirements under the WHMIS Regulations please follow this link: [WHMIS Employee Education](#). The regulation requires an employer to "at least **annually review**" with the JOHS committee (if any) the instruction and training provided to employees.

Violence in the Workplace Regulations

Section 4 of these Regulations sets out the types of businesses to which these Regulations apply. An employer operating such a business is required to comply with these Regulations

and to undertake a violence risk assessment. The employer will then develop a violence prevention plan (section 7) based on their risk assessment and any training (section 11) would be based on the prevention plan. Training noted in section 11 includes: recognizing situations that may lead to violence and how to respond to them; how to respond to an incident and how to get assistance; how to report, document and investigate incidents. (Note that the regulations do not provide recommendations for specific training providers.)

Workplaces/businesses that are not listed in section 4 of these Regulations are not specifically required to follow these Regulations; however, all employers have an obligation under Section 13 of the Act to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of their employees at the workplace, including where there is a risk of violence.

**LABOUR AND ADVANCED
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Day of Mourning—April 28

A reminder that every year on April 28 the Day of Mourning is observed here, nationally and internationally, as a day to pay tribute to those who have died or been injured at work.

Events are organized across several communities in the Province not only to recognize persons who may have been injured or died, but also to renew the commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace. To see which communities will be holding events please go to the [Day of Mourning](#) 'About' web page.



Officer Perseverance & Fall Protection

Recently a couple of our Officers received recognition and a note of thanks from a worker who had their fall broken by their fall arrest equipment when working at heights.

The reason for the thanks is that prior to this instance the worker would not normally have been wearing the fall arrest equipment. It was due to a prior inspection by the Officers and being informed of the Fall Protection requirements—plans, procedures, equipment and training—that the worker was wearing fall protection.

Too often our Officers encounter persons working at heights (10 feet or more) while not having any means of fall protection or any training in fall protection. The requirements are there to prevent falls, injuries or in some instances fatalities. It only takes a moment to fall, why risk the consequences?

Fall protection requirements are contained within [Part 21 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#).

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](#)