

Improving Public Safety:

Boosts Competitiveness and Compliance

The Opportunity

Environment and Labour works hard to protect Nova Scotians health and safety whether they are at work, home or play. Our department reduces accidents and injuries and ensures high standards of safe business operation by regulating building and plumbing codes plus electrical, fire, fuel, mechanical equipment, and recreational facility safety.

Government is doing a comprehensive review of public safety regulations, but a number of regulatory improvements have already taken place. The following are some of the things we do to protect your safety, while making sure we keep our provincial economy strong.

Three-year terms for elevators and lift licenses and certificates

To reduce unnecessary paperwork and prevent over-regulation, cabinet approved regulatory changes that allowed the Elevators and Lifts Inspection Services Section to extend the term of elevating device licenses and elevator and lift mechanics' certificates from one year to three years.

Safe, competitive construction

The province's *Building Code Act* and regulations are under continuous review by staff and the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee. Regular updating of the regulations assures harmonization, uniformity and consistency with Canada's national model building and plumbing codes. The public are invited to propose changes at any time, and are consulted before the Code is changed.

Continuous review ensures competitiveness and the highest possible safety standard for the construction industry and their clients. Ongoing consultation ensures that business and safety considerations continue to shape progressive, fair regulation.

Centralized and improved fuel safety

In October 2006, Nova Scotia's fuel safety regulations were changed to make them easier to interpret, to address safe management of more fuels, and keep them more current. The new regulations mean that nearly all fuel oil installations are regulated by one government department. Changes to safety practices in the national code can now be adopted immediately in Nova Scotia. The new regulations also offer better representation and licensing for industry workers, and improve several reporting, compliance, and registration practices.

Crane Operators qualify faster, get national standards

In January 2007, changes to the Crane Operators Regulations took effect. The new requirements allow operators to qualify for certification faster because they receive more credit hours for the experience they gain from qualifying programs. The regulations now refer to the most current national standards for crane installation, operation and maintenance. All these changes are improving industry's competitiveness through clarification and simplification without compromising the safety of workers or the public.



Fire safety regulations become national and more flexible

In 2003, Nova Scotia adopted the majority of the National Fire Code as our provincial Fire Safety Regulations, part of a commitment to keeping our regulations current.

The 2005 National Fire Code was also adopted as part of Nova Scotia's Fire Safety Regulations. The new Code is objective-based, so – for the first time – fire safety requirements are more flexible. It allows users to understand the reasons behind the requirements and design a customized fire safety program. Meanwhile, the provincial regulations still allow government to include anything necessary to guarantee public safety.

Without new challenges or increased costs, building owners can now comply with Fire Safety Regulations more easily without any reduction to their responsibility to protect Nova Scotians who use their buildings.

Power Engineers Regulations: Flexible staffing and record keeping

Stakeholders requested changes to the Power Engineers regulations that would address their immediate concerns about certain regulations that were seen as impediments to effective operations.

Changes to the regulations mean operators who meet certain criteria may no longer need to have a power engineer on staff full time or that they may be able to use provincially-certified unfired power boiler plant operators. The regulations clarify the duties of Chiefs and power engineers, and allow electronic log keeping. These changes will allow smaller operations to operate at lower costs during periods of reduced production, without compromising safety.

Emergency Evacuation Training for Elevating Devices

This training course allows all kinds of emergency service agencies to learn to safely extract people from elevating devices without endangering rescuers or passengers or damaging the device. Less equipment damage and downtime reduces costs to the company that result from repair work or negative appearances. People trapped in an elevator require immediate help; This training greatly reduces the physical safety risks and business consequences for everyone involved in helping them.

Amusement Device Mechanic Training Program

This training program has improved the public protection measures for amusement devices and introduced industry standards.

To obtain a fact sheet that describes this initiative in detail, or for more information about any other public safety measures in Nova Scotia, call the department's Information Specialist at (902) 424-5400 (Toll-free 1-800-952-2687) You can also consult the department's website at: www.gov.ns.ca/enla

About the CCI

The previous initiatives are examples of how Environment and Labour protects health and safety while making it easier for people to obey the relevant laws. They demonstrate the intent of the Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative (CCI).

The CCI is a key part of *Better Regulation – Everyone's Business*, the Government of Nova Scotia's far-reaching plan for improving regulation in the province. Environment and Labour is one of the main regulatory bodies in Nova Scotia. Through the CCI, the department is changing the way laws are designed, communicated and enforced in Nova Scotia.

The CCI is a multi-year and systematic approach to making sure that our regulatory programs meet the needs of Nova Scotians. In short, the CCI is working to make a brighter future for our people, economy, environment and communities.

Where can I get more information on the Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative?

Find out more about the CCI at its Web site at: www.gov.ns.ca/enla/cci or by calling 902-424-3081.



Environment and Labour