

Public consultation leads to improved worksite safety rules

Employers have three months to phase in changes

The Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code has been updated to keep workplace health and safety rules current and relevant. Alberta employers have until July 1 to comply with the updates.

The Occupational Health and Safety Council recommended changes to the code after extensive public consultation.

Updates to the OHS Code include the following:

- new requirements for lift calculations, tag lines and personnel baskets;
- healthcare requirements specific to patient/client/resident handling;
- new requirements for medical sharps;
- new concept of a 'restricted' space with less stringent requirements than a 'confined' space;
- requirements applicable to respiratory protection against airborne biohazardous material;
- mobile equipment requirements specifically for concrete pump trucks;
- new, specific safety factors for rigging components;
- occupational exposure limits revised for nearly 150 chemical substances; and
- updates to better reflect current mining practices.

The 2009 OHS Code and a bulletin that compares the 2006 and 2009 editions of the Code can be found online at: <http://employment.alberta.ca/whs-ohs>

The 2009 OHS Code Explanation Guide will be available online at this site in June.

Copies of the 2009 OHS Code can be purchased from the Queen's Printer at 780-427-4952 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access) or online at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/>. Shipping will begin in late May.