

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020

Introduction

- The Government of Saskatchewan has made amendments to *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*
- Effective April 1, 2021, *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* will be in effect
- A copy of the full regulations is available at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/111283/formats/124952/download>.

Review of Regulations

- A review of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996* was undertaken in 2019 to:
 - Harmonize certain personal protective equipment requirements with other jurisdictions in Canada;
 - Update references and make minor housekeeping amendments to assist workers, employers, owners and contractors in understanding their rights and obligations.

Summary of Changes

- Adopt a CSA standard for first aid kits
- Harmonize personal protective equipment standards
- Consolidate three regulations
- Remove seismic blasting exemption
- Renumber regulations
- Housekeeping amendments
- Special vaccination leave

Harmonization of First Aid Kits

- As part of a Canada-wide initiative to remove barriers to internal trade, investment and labour mobility, employers and contractors are now required to maintain first aid kits based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard Z1220-17.

First Aid Risk Assessment

- The new regulation requires an employer to have a workplace first aid kit risk assessment completed by a competent person.
- The assessment will determine the risk classification of the worksite which is used to determine the first aid kits and first aid personnel that are required on the worksite.
- Annex A of the CSA standard provides direction for undertaking a workplace first aid risk assessment.

Personal Protection Harmonization

- In addition, the following personal protective standards have been adopted as “approved” standards:
 - Industrial protective headwear (CSA Z94.1 2015)
 - Eye and face protectors (CSA Z94.3 2015)
 - Protective footwear (CSA Z195-14)
 - Hearing protection devices (CSA Z94.2-14)
 - Personal floatation devices (must be labelled as approved by Transport Canada or other recognized maritime authority)
- No regulatory amendment was required to adopt these standards.

Approved Standards

- Various provisions of the regulations refer to “approved” standards, practices or equipment.
- “Approved” is defined as:
 - (a) approved by an agency acceptable to the director for use in accordance with any terms and conditions determined by the agency; or
 - (b) approved by a certificate of the director subject to any terms and conditions the director considers appropriate

Standard Harmonization

- Adoption of these standards will ensure consistent equipment and practices across jurisdictions which in turn will enhance health and safety
- Harmonization is also intended to improve labour mobility by reducing costs and administration for workers and businesses operating across jurisdictions

Accessing CSA Standards - Instructions

- Harmonized Standards can be accessed for free:
 1. Go to the CSA Web-store: <https://www.csagroup.org/store/>
 2. If you don't have an account already, create one for free by registering through the link in the top right-hand corner
 3. Once the account is created, log in
 4. Use the search bar to search for the standard you are interested in
 5. Select the hyperlink in the standard title. Information on the standard will then populate the screen
 6. Select the "VIEW ACCESS" button near the top left
 7. A web-based viewer will pop up. You won't be able to download the standard, but you can view it through the web-browser

Consolidation of Regulations

- *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* consolidate the following regulations:
 - *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*
 - *The Occupational Health and Safety (Prime Contractor) Regulations*
 - *The Occupational Health and Safety (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) Regulations*
- The consolidation is meant to reduce confusion and increase ease of reference for workplace parties in order to support compliance and reduce workplace injuries

Seismic Blasting Changes

- The exemption for workers conducting seismic exploration operations has been removed (formerly section 375)
- Seismic blasting now falls under *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*

Renumbering of Regulations

- The *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* have been renumbered to align with *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*
- The renumbering will provide ease of use for all parties
- The revised numbering system is also flexible enough to accommodate future amendments

Housekeeping Amendments

- General housekeeping amendments have been made in order to:
 - Update references to repealed legislation, such as The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993
 - Modernize language to reflect current practices such as using gender neutral language

Special Vaccination Leave

- Effective March 18, 2021, workers are entitled to a minimum of three consecutive hours of paid leave during work hours to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination
- Workers are entitled to more than three consecutive hours paid leave during work hours to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination if their employer determines that circumstances warrant it
- Section 6-22.1

More Information

- More information about workplace health and safety can be found:
 - OHS Division: 800-567-7233 (1-800-567-SAFE)
 - Saskatchewan.ca
 - Worksafesask.ca
 - Publications.Saskatchewan.ca

Thank You