

## 2019-2022 Occupational Health and Safety Review Plan

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The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code and Regulation Review Plan promotes health and safety in Alberta by outlining areas for future review and renewal to ensure regulations are in alignment with other jurisdictions; and reflect the changing nature of workplace hazards, industry best practices and emerging technology.

The publication of the plan will provide stakeholders with an understanding of the work that is being conducted on a year-to-year basis and allow stakeholders to provide meaningful input. The plan covers a three-year period and is updated annually.

### Overview

The government is committed to ensuring Alberta's workplaces operate under reasonable and practicable standards for the protection of the health and safety of workers and self-employed persons. As part of this commitment, the review plan outlines the approach Alberta Labour will take to examine technical requirements. This includes:

- a. continuing to identify opportunities for regulatory harmonization, including reconciling legislative, regulatory and policy measures across jurisdictions;
- b. where appropriate, endeavoring to mutually recognize standards in order to remove barriers to operating between jurisdictions so long as the standards that must be met are appropriate to each jurisdiction's need;
- c. to the extent practicable, taking into account cross-jurisdictional consistency as a principle behind policy, regulation and legislation preparation and application;
- d. providing a specific and direct understanding of requirements to work site parties to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses and facilitate the ability for proper compliance; and
- e. reflecting current science/research as well as health and safety best practices in Canada.

The OHS Code and Regulations operationalize and supplement the general requirements contained in the OHS Act and set minimum standards for Alberta's workplaces. This includes:

- a. providing clarity and sufficient guidance for work site parties to proactively pursue prevention activities;
- b. specifying the expectations for work site parties to protect worker health and safety; and
- c. effectively addressing the hazards present in all sectors of Alberta industry.

#### Year 1:

- Implementation of intergovernmental commitments, including updates to the identified parts of the Code. This includes changes to first aid (Part 11), general safety precautions (Part 12), noise exposure (Part 16) and personal protective equipment (Part 18).
- Review and engage stakeholders regarding the requirements for mining (Part 33 and 36) and oil and gas wells (Part 37) to reflect national and international best practices.
- Commence review of ergonomics (Part 14); pregnant and sensitized workers, and asbestos inventory (Part 4); confined spaces (Part 5); health care (Part 35); and robotics (New).
- Work with other jurisdictions and engage stakeholders to commence review and alignment of Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) (Part 4).

- Implement miscellaneous corrections to select sections from OHS Code parts 1-2, 5, 7-9, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24-25, 31, 34, 39-41, and schedules 4 and 9, others.

#### **Year 2:**

- Implement changes for mining (Part 33 and 36), and oil and gas wells (Part 37).
- Implement changes for ergonomics (Part 14); pregnant and sensitized workers, and asbestos inventory (Part 4); confined spaces (Part 5); health care (Part 35); and robotics (New).
- Commence review of thermal hazards (Part 20) and autonomous vehicles (New).
- Commence review to address health and safety gaps in specialized industries: forestry (Part 34) and firefighting (New).
- Implement adjustments to OELs and continue review of select OELs.
- Conduct a review and consult on changes to requirements for chemical hazards, biological hazards and harmful substances (Part 4); fire and explosion hazards (Part 10); and excavating and tunnelling (Part 32) to ensure alignment with health and safety best practices and outcomes of previous consultations.

#### **Year 3:**

- Implement changes for thermal hazards (Part 20), autonomous vehicles (New), forestry (Part 34), and firefighting (New).
- Commence review of requirements for working alone (Part 28).
- Implement adjustments to OELs and continue review of select OELs.
- Conduct a review and consult on changes to requirements for cranes, hoists and lifting devices (Part 6); rigging (Part 21); and scaffolds and temporary work platforms (Part 23) to ensure alignment with health and safety best practices and outcomes of previous consultations.
- Implement changes to requirements for chemical hazards, biological hazards and harmful substances (Part 4); fire and explosion hazards (Part 10); and excavating and tunnelling (Part 32).

## **Contact**

To connect with OHS:

Phone: [780-415-8690](tel:780-415-8690) (Edmonton)

Toll free: [1-866-415-8690](tel:1-866-415-8690)

TTY: [780-427-9999](tel:780-427-9999) (Edmonton)

TTY: [1-800-232-7215](tel:1-800-232-7215)

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