

WCB Policy Consultation News

The WCB Alberta is two years into its current policy review process, which is the largest stakeholder consultation project in their 81-year history. They continue to ask stakeholders for comments and feedback that will assist them in developing and amending policies to best meet the needs of Albertans.

The most recent discussion paper, "Theme 13: Relationship between accident and employment", is now available for stakeholder review and comment. The relationship between accident and employment determines if compensation will be paid for injuries. The WCB must determine:

1. Was there an accident?
2. Did the accident arise out of, and occur in, the course of employment?
3. Did the accident result in injury, occupational disease or other compensable loss?

The review is asking for input on the following issues:

- Is the current coverage for accidents that occur during travel appropriate?
- Is the coverage provided for accidents that occur at employer-provided facilities appropriate?
- Should WCB cover accidents that occur due to personal circumstances?
- Should WCB cover accidents that result from serious and willful misconduct?
- Should WCB cover "Good Samaritan" acts?
- Should coverage be provided to workers working from home?
- Should WCB pay for preventive medical treatment?

To receive a copy of this paper, contact the WCB project staff at (780) 498-7799 (Edmonton area) or toll-free at 1-888-797-7755 (other areas of Alberta). The deadline for feedback is April 30th, 2000.

Safety Bulletins

The Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association has some new safety information bulletins available for its members. The first two listed below were developed by AMHSA, while Alberta Human Resources and Employment developed the third.

- Municipal Workers and Infectious Diseases (AMHSA)
- Workplace Stress (AMHSA)
- Health Effects From Exposure to Wood Dust (AHR&E)

You can receive your copies of these information packages by contacting our office. Eventually we hope to have this information available on our web page.

General Safety Regulation Review Update

In last month's Municipal Safety News we indicated that a new draft proposal for a General Safety Regulation update should be available for public review by the end of January. Because of the size and complexity of the draft, this has been delayed slightly. The draft should now be available sometime in late February or March. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft GSR (or any of the other draft OHS regulations) you can request a copy directly from Alberta Human Resources and Employment. You

can do this by going to their website www.gov.ab.ca/lab/new/review/whsreg.html or by phoning them at (780) 427-6724 and asking to be put on the mailing list.

Auditor Re-certification/Upgrade

One of the requirements for being an AMHSA certified peer auditor is taking a one-day auditor re-certification course every three years. This means that all AMHSA auditors who received certification in 1997 will need to be re-certified this year. We will be offering the re-certification courses, free of charge, at a variety of locations around the province in April and May.

In addition, because we have developed a new municipal audit, auditors will be upgraded during the training to be able to use the new audit tool. This training is available to all auditors wishing to use the new tool, regardless of whether they need to re-certify this year or not. Auditors who take the training will continue to be certified in the audit tool they were originally certified to use. Certification will be valid for three years following the training provided auditors meet the other certification requirements.

To assist us in determining class locations, we would appreciate interested auditors contacting our office and leaving their names. We will arrange training at locations that appear to be convenient for the largest numbers of people expressing interest.

Videos

AMHSA has a number of videos available for rent. A couple of these videos are related to our bulletin on infectious diseases. These include:

- Blood Borne Pathogens in the Workplace
- Pro-Style: The Safe Way for Sanitation Workers

If you are interested in the topic of infectious diseases, contact our office for either a bulletin or a video.