

A bulletin by the Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Labour, B.C. Government.

The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and seminars on all aspects of workers' compensation.

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Workers Compensation Act Revision

A revised version of the *Workers Compensation Act* comes into effect on April 6, 2020.

The revisions are pursuant to the *Statute Revision Act*, which establishes a mandate for the Chief Legislative Counsel of B.C. to consolidate, renumber, and reorganize British Columbia's acts into more coherent and readable "revised" acts. It does so because, over time, acts undergo changes that may affect their original structure and make it more difficult to find key information.

The Legislative Counsel identified the *Workers Compensation Act* as an act in need of revision, as it was last revised in 1996. The revisions do not change the legal effect of the *Workers Compensation Act* with respect to workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, or employers' assessment premiums. However, the revisions do modernize some language in the Act and reorganizes the numbering to make laws easier to find. Here is how the Act will be reorganized:

Pre-April 6, 2020 Version	Post-April 6, 2020 Version
Part 1 – Compensation to Workers, Dependants <u>6 Divisions</u> : includes compensation; assessments; Board governance; Review Division	Part 1 – Scope of the Act; <u>4 Divisions</u> : includes definitions; scope/application of OHS provisions; scope of compensation provisions; industries not within scope
Part 2 – Industries not within scope	Part 2 – OHS; <u>15 Divisions</u>
Part 3 – OHS; <u>17 Divisions</u>	Part 3 – Workers' Compensation System; <u>3 Divisions</u> : General rules; Board jurisdiction; current s. 10
Part 4 – Appeals; <u>4 Divisions</u>	Part 4 – Compensation to Workers, Dependants; <u>10 Divisions</u>
	Part 5 – Accident fund, assessment; <u>3 Divisions</u>
	Part 6 – Review of Board decisions (Review Division)
	Part 7 – Appeals to Appeal Tribunal (WCAT); <u>4 Divisions</u>
	Part 8 – Board, General Matters; <u>6 Divisions</u> : includes Board administration, powers, practices; EAO and WAO

As a result, materials that reference the Act, particularly if they reference numbered sections, will need to be revised to accurately reflect the Act that takes effect on April 6, 2020 (*Workers Compensation Act*, R.S.B.C. 2019, c. 1). WorkSafeBC has informed us that its key materials – including policy manuals, regulations (OHS-related and non-OHS-related), practice directives, and website – will be updated to reflect the revised Act when it takes effect.

To assist stakeholders in updating their own materials, both the government of B.C. and WorkSafeBC have developed resources to provide more detail on the changes, including a full version of the [revised Act](#) and a [Table of Concordance](#) that identifies where a section in the existing legislation is located in the revised Act. WorkSafeBC has collected these resources at worksafebc.com/WCA2019.