

A newsletter by the Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Labour, BC Government. The [Employers' Advisers Office](#) provides advice, assistance, representation, and educational services on all aspects of the workers' compensation system.

Workplace Status - Policy Changes – Effective January 1, 2023

Workplace status refers to whether a person or entity is an employer, worker, or independent operator. These upcoming policy changes will affect the determination of who is an employer and who is a worker in respect of the Workers Compensation Act. Notably, the new policy has eliminated the Labour Contractor designation. Employers and anyone currently classified as a Labour Contractor should familiarise themselves with the changes here: [BOD Decision — 2022/07/13-02 — Determining Workplace Status | WorkSafeBC](#)

Worker and Practitioner Signature Changes - Effective September 1, 2022

In July, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors [approved changes](#) to policy items #93.25, Signature on Application for Compensation and #95.10, Form of Reports in the [Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Vol II](#).

The changes confirm:

- Teleclaim and online worker applications will satisfy the requirement for a signed application for compensation.
- Electronic submission of prescribed medical reports will satisfy reporting requirements from authorized medical practitioners.

Refusing Unsafe Work Regulation [3.12.1](#)

The Summer 2022 EAO Newsletter highlighted a new amendment to [section 3.12 of the OHS Regulation](#). WorkSafeBC has now released a one-page [Primer on Refusing Unsafe Work](#) to explain the changes. Check it out and ensure that you understand the responsibilities of employers and workers.

New Guide to Musculoskeletal Injury (MSI) Risk Assessment

WorkSafeBC has developed a new [MSI Risk Assessment Guide](#) for employers. This new guide provides information on how to do an MSI risk assessment. The guide outlines the requirements for a proper MSI risk assessment and describes the risk factors that employers need to consider in an assessment. As a companion to the new guide, WorkSafeBC has developed a [Musculoskeletal Injury \(MSI\) Risk Assessment Worksheet](#). Sprains and strains can develop from a variety of work activities and are the most common injury accepted by WorkSafeBC. Identifying hazards, evaluating risks, and implementing appropriate controls helps to reduce and eliminate these common workplace injuries.

Top 5 WorkSafeBC Injuries:

1. Strains
2. Back Strains
3. Occupational Disease
4. Cuts
5. Contusions



To reduce injuries at your worksite a competent person needs to identify, analyze, and communicate the workplace hazards and risks. The goal is to eliminate or control the risks/hazards to prevent uncertainties, situations and errors that can lead to a workplace injury.

Employers' Advisers have expertise in all areas of workers' compensation. If you have questions about claims, assessments or anything related to workplace occupational health and safety, give our toll-free number a call and speak to one of our duty advisers. We are independent from WorkSafeBC, no-cost and all calls are confidential.

Call us: **1-800-925-2233**

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