July, 2020

The Employers’ Adviser

A newsletter 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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Consultation

1. **Safety Headgear – Part 8, section 8.11(1)** – proposed amendments require employer to conduct a risk assessment prior to making hard hats compulsory. Submissions are due July 31.
2. **Exposure Limits – 24 Substances**. Submissions are due August 14.
3. **Concrete Pump Operator Certification – Part 20**. Submissions are due August 14.
4. **Injuries Caused by Overexertion**. Submissions are due September 2.
5. **Guideline G8.40(2.1)(c) – Single-use respirators and fit test equivalency**. Submissions are due July 28.
6. **Guideline G3.16(1.1)** – proposed amendments to include masks and face shields/safety eyewear in first aid kits. Submissions are due August 2.
7. **Guideline G3.3** – proposed revision to cite only those safety program contents relevant to COVID-19 safety plans. Submissions are due August 21.

**September, 2020 Public Hearings** for several proposed regulatory amendments. These hearings will be held virtually. Details on how to participate will be posted on WorkSafeBC’s website on September 1.

**Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2020**

On July 14, the Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour, introduced in the Legislature [Bill 23, the Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2020](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers).

Here is a link to the government’s [News Release](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers).

The changes were in response to various reports received over the past year, including the Parr Review which has now been published.

Once passed, the EAO will distribute a Law and Policy Bulletin summarizing the finalized amendments.

**EOA Seminars and Recorded Webinars**

In case you missed it, we have two [recorded COVID-19 webinars](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers) on our website; one pertaining to refusal of unsafe work and one regarding claims. Supporting materials are also uploaded.

We will be posting our Joint Committee webinars starting in September but we are also working on innovative ways to get our training out to you during the pandemic. Please keep checking our website and continue to subscribe to our newsletter for updates.

**Resources from WorkSafeBC**

- [First Aid Protocols](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers) during the pandemic, June 2020
- [New Resource to help young workers prevent hearing loss](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers), June 2020

Be sure to check WorkSafeBC’s [home page](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers) for Details.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

Section 20.47 of the Regulation – Concrete Pumping. The Board has approved amendments to this section regarding how and when concrete pumps and placing booms are to be inspected. The effective date of the change is January 1, 2021.

WorkSafeBC has [extended first aid certificates](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers) with expiry dates between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

2020 New or Revised ACGIH Threshold Limit Values and B.C. Exposure Limits have been added to OHS Policy R5.48-1.

**WCAT**

Due to COVID-19, WCAT is conducting all oral hearings virtually, by phone or video conference. In addition, WCAT correspondence may be sent electronically if you consent to receiving encrypted emails. See [WCAT’s home page](https://www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers) for details.

EAO Locations in BC: Abbotsford; Kamloops; Kelowna; Nanaimo; Prince George; Richmond; Trail; Victoria

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