

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

WORK SAFE BC

Changes to Safety Headgear

OHS Regulation [8.11](#) and associated



[Guidelines](#)



Identifying hazards along with assessing and controlling risks at workplaces are every employer's responsibility.

As of Sept. 1, 2021, WorkSafeBC has updated their Regulation and Guidelines surrounding the use of safety headgear. WorkSafeBC noted that personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety headgear was often being used as a blanket first line of defence from a serious hazard.

The updated Regulation requires employers to follow the [hierarchy of controls](#) and ensure measures such as elimination, engineering controls, and administrative controls are applied before relying on safety headgear.

Employers must be able to demonstrate that they identified hazards, assessed risks, and applied the most effective control, in accordance with the hierarchy of controls, to eliminate or reduce risks of injury to workers rather than relying solely on safety headgear as a first line of defence.

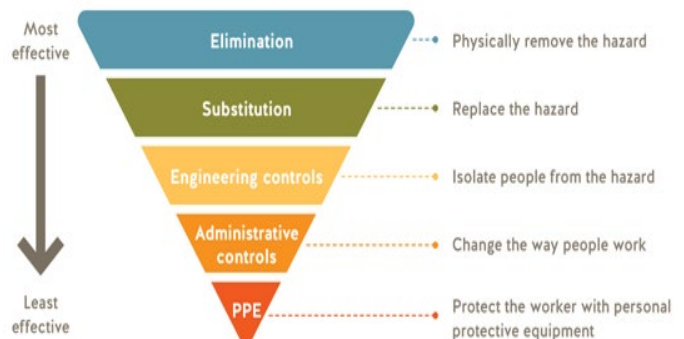
Webinars April, May, and June

Spring 2022 New Joint Committee Members and Due Diligence Webinars are now available for [registration online](#). The New Joint Committee Members series features: #1 Rules of Procedures and Meetings; #2 Right to Refuse, Consultation & Making Recommendations; #3 Inspections & Investigations; and #4 Committee Evaluations & Assessing Training Needs. The Due Diligence series features: #1 The Basics and #2 Enforcement.

Questions? We are here!

Employers' Advisers are available 8:30 – 4:30, Monday to Friday to provide information and advice and answer any questions you may have relating to WorkSafeBC Claims, Prevention, and Assessments. We also provide no cost representation where there is merit on Reviews, Appeals, and Prohibited Action Adjudications, including mediations. Give us a call at 1-800-925-2233 or send an email to eao@eao-bc.org.

Hierarchy of controls



WorkSafeBC has provided resources on the [Safety Headgear Changes](#) which includes [Controlling Risks](#), [Assessing Risks](#), [Guidelines – Part 8 – Safety Headgear](#) and [Part 20 of the Regulation](#). Note that [Regulation 20.9](#) speaks to engineering controls to protect workers from falling materials.

For further information, call the EAO to discuss these resources with an Adviser at 1-800-925-2233.

WorkSafeBC Prevention Manual Updates

WorkSafeBC has updated the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) and the [Prevention Manual](#). Employers should review the Regulation and Prevention Manual to ensure current safe work policies, practices and procedures are being followed. To help in this regard, WorkSafeBC has prepared seven informative Primers that explain the changes and what is new. They are linked below:

- [Arborists and arboriculture](#)
- [Blasting operations](#)
- [Certification of concrete pump operators](#)
- [Combustible and flammable liquids](#)
- [Logging truck load securement](#)
- [Radiation dose limits for the lens of the eye](#)
- [Traffic control](#)

WorkSafeBC Medical Advisor Info Line



Employers can now arrange to connect with a Medical Advisor at WorkSafeBC.

Medical Advisors can answer employer questions on general medical and clinical issues. Medical Advisors do not make decisions on claims and cannot answer questions about adjudication or appeals.

Employers can call 1-855-476-3049 to arrange a discussion.

The Province of BC recently passed [Bill 5 – 2022: Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2022](#), which outlines new protections to help keep workers safe from asbestos.

Anyone who repairs, renovates, or demolishes older buildings in B.C. is at risk of inhaling asbestos fibres. These fibres can linger in the air for hours if disturbed. Breathing in asbestos fibres can damage your lungs, causing serious health problems such as, asbestosis, lung cancer (mesothelioma), or pleural thickening. These conditions are preventable but cannot be reversed once they have occurred. WorkSafeBC adjudicated and allowed 608 fatal workplace asbestos exposure claims between 2011 - 2020.

WorkSafeBC will implement Bill 5 changes, sharing details of an implementation plan as it progresses. Active participation from workers, employers, and other stakeholders will play a key role in shaping the asbestos abatement safety training and certification program, so consultation will be a key element of developing the implementation plan. Implementation of new asbestos requirements will include:

- Developing the standards that asbestos safety training and certification programs must comply with;
- Developing a licensing scheme for abatement contractors;
- Amending the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation to align with the changes to the *Workers Compensation Act*; and,
- Supporting the certification and licensing schemes and identifying who will act as the training and certifying bodies for asbestos abatement workers.

All this is being done to increase workplace safety for everyone and preventing these irreversible occupational diseases from developing.