

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.

To subscribe/unsubscribe, call 1-800-925-2233 or email EAO@eao-bc.org

EAO Website: www.gov.bc.ca/employersadvisers



Out for Consultation

1. [Proposed Policy Amendments Regarding Acupuncture](#): The Board is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to increase coverage for acupuncture treatment. Submissions are due June 19, 2020.
2. Proposed Guidelines – Submissions are due April 14, 2020
 - [G8.33\(1\)](#) – Selection of Respiratory Protection (Alternate Standard)
 - [G8.33-1](#) – Respiratory Protection (Preliminary Revision)
 - [G8.41](#) – User Seal Check (Alternate Standard)
 - [G8.44](#) – Records

Workers Compensation Act Revisions 2019

Changes to the language and numbering of the *Workers Compensation Act* come into effect April 6, 2020. The revisions do not change the legal effect of the current provisions, but they do require updating materials that reference the *Act*. Resources to help ensure your materials reflect the revised *Workers Compensation Act* are available at worksafebc.com/WCA2019. For more information about the changes, see our March [Law and Policy Bulletin](#).

EAO Seminars

Please be advised that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our office has cancelled all in-person and employer-requested seminars until further notice. Webinars and E-Learning will continue to be offered.

CANCELLED



WCAT Workers' Compensation
Appeal Tribunal

WCAT has postponed all in-person hearings through May 31. Instead, teleconference hearings will be held or a new date scheduled. Parties scheduled to attend oral hearings before May 31 will be contacted by the Appeal Coordinators. If you experience difficulties meeting statutory deadlines for filing an appeal or submission, please advise the tribunal. WCAT strongly urges any correspondence be sent via email at appeals@wcat.bc.ca.



If your worker is refusing unsafe work, you are obliged to follow the

steps in [Regulation 3.12](#). Consideration should be given to exposure to the public, particularly when that contact is prolonged, and/or takes place in enclosed places. The [Guideline](#) for Regulation 3.12 provides additional facts to consider, including worker susceptibilities. More information:

- [British Columbia Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information](#)
- [HealthLinkBC Corona Virus FAQs](#)
- CPHR Employer Bulletin [Link](#)
- WorkSafeBC - [What workers and employers need to know about COVID-19](#)
- WorkSafeBC – [Infectious diseases](#)
- CCHOS – [Infectious disease or pandemic](#) – [Workplace tips for both employers and workers](#)

Changes to Policy, Practice and Guidelines

1. [Changes to Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Policies](#), effective February 1, 2020:
 - C11-85.00 – Board's commitment to timely intervention to assist successful return to work
 - C11-88.00 – Removes requirement that developments allowing a VR plan to be changed be "unanticipated"
 - C11-89.10 – Clarifies that income continuity payments are considered if injury becomes permanent.
2. [Evidence and Decision-Making](#), changes effective February 1, 2020: Various claims policies were amended to incorporate principles regarding standard of proof, causation, evidence, and medical evidence arising from recent court decisions.
3. [Claims Practice Directive \(PD\) C5-5](#) – Selective Light Employment: This PD, effective in December, directs officers to pay wage loss benefits during an investigation into the suitability of offered employment.
4. [Guideline G11.2\(6\)-1](#) – This new guideline sets out what constitutes proper instruction in training workers about fall protection systems.