

MINUTES of Inter-Agency Agriculture Compliance Committee meeting held on November 1, 2018

Location:

Employment Standards Branch office - Langley

Attendees:

Sat Combow, WorkSafeBC
Mike Nielsen, WorkSafeBC
Bruce Calbick, CVSE
Melanie Zabel, ESB (chair)
Sukh Kaila, ESB
Colin Gelinias, ESB

Meeting was brought to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roadside Inspections:

- Discussed 2018 stats. 12 roadside inspections held this year. WorkSafeBC issued 20 stop use orders. CVSE issued 20 out of service orders. CVSE and WorkSafeBC will advise ESB next season whenever there are out of service /stop use orders issued so that ESB can review compliance with the Employment Standards Regulation. ESB is still issuing determinations from the season and stats will be updated accordingly. WorkSafeBC is still determining penalties and will update stats once finalized.
- WorkSafeBC provided portable toilets at all roadside inspections and bottled water for everyone at some inspections. WorkSafeBC provides first aid service for all workers at roadside inspections, including to workers from the inspecting agencies.
- Driver, passenger, and vehicle safety is the foremost priority at the roadside inspections, however, the agencies are mindful of worker (passenger) dignity. CVSE works to ensure passengers are not kept waiting while the vehicles are being inspected. Arrangements are made to ensure farm workers are transported to their worksites as expeditiously as possible. CVSE allows vehicles that it deems fit for immediate road use to transport the workers to their work location and the vehicle returns to the inspection site for a full inspection. If there is a critical defect with the vehicle, workers are transported to their worksites in an alternate vehicle.
- ESB will continue to publish quarterly statistics on the website:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/specific-industries/information-for-agriculture-workers-and-employers/farm-workers-inter-agency-compliance-committee>
- Note: some statistics for each quarter may be updated during subsequent quarters.

Education Initiatives for Farm Workers and Employers:

- Since vehicles generally do not contain passengers during the inspections, ESB primarily educates workers during farm site inspections, as does WorkSafeBC.
- ESB sent a letter to all farm labour contractor employers in April of this year outlining information regarding the safe transportation of workers, among other things.

- All agencies will consider other education initiatives and outreach activities in the spring of 2019.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:10 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting:

- Tentatively scheduled for mid to late March 2019 at the Langley ESB office.