

New OH&S regulation in effect April 15

May 1, 1999

The Report: May / June 1999 vol.19 num.7

by HANNELORE GIDORA

A new Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, to replace the old Industrial Health and Safety Regulation, came into effect on April 15, 1998. Employers were given a one-year grace period to work towards compliance. As of April 15, 1999, this year is up, so that almost all of the requirements are now in force. (There are a few exceptions; for example Section 4.83(3) on environmental tobacco smoke gives certain establishments until January 1, 2000 to comply.)

Of the approximately 4,000 requirements, one third are new, one third are updated from the previous regulations, and one third are essentially the same as in the old regulations. Since the beginning of the regulatory review process in 1992, several new regulations had come into effect (e.g. Ergonomics, WHMIS, Violence in the Workplace). All these have been incorporated in the new OH&S Regulation. Occupational First Aid, which used to be a different handbook, is now also part of the new OH&S Regulation.

The Regulation consists of a set of four books. The first book is the Index and User Guide. It contains some general information and a well-organized index that makes it easy to find specific topics. The other three books contain the body of the new Regulation. It has been divided into 33 parts, each of which is further broken down into sections.

Book 1 (Core Requirements: Parts 1-4) lists the basic requirements for OH&S programs, as well as the rights and duties of OH&S committees, worker representatives, employers and workers (including the right to refuse unsafe work in sections 3.24-3.25). Book 1 also deals with basic hazards common to most industries, and is the book our safety stewards will have to refer to most often.

Book 2 (General Hazard Requirements: Parts 5-19) deals with several subjects that are of specific interest to HSA members. These include requirements for working with biohazards, radiation and chemicals (including WHMIS), as well as requirements for personal protective equipment and clothing.

Book 3 (Industry and Activity Specific Requirements: Parts 20-33) includes stipulations for laboratories (Part 30) and Occupational First Aid (Part 33). Other parts may be pertinent to specific areas where our members work.

HSA urges safety stewards to become familiar with the general layout of the OH&S Regulation, as well as the parts relating directly to HSA members at their worksites.

The [OH&S Regulation](#) is available free from the [Workers' Compensation Board](#). To order, call the WCB Film and Posters Section at 604.276.3068 or toll free 1.800.661.2112, local 3068. For more detailed information on the WCB, read Chapter 2 in the HSA Safety Steward Manual. It is available from HSA office to all safety stewards.

Type:

[The Report](#)

- [Print](#)
- [PDF](#)

180 East Columbia
New Westminster, BC V3L 0G7

Website
www.hsabc.org

Telephone 604-517-0994
1-800-663-2017