

Change highlights: Miscellaneous amendments in the OHS Code

OHS information for work site parties

This bulletin introduces miscellaneous changes to various parts of the [Occupational Health and Safety \(OHS\) Code](#).

Note that separate dedicated bulletins have been published for parts of the OHS Code that had more extensive changes (such as Part 11 – First aid, Part 16 – Noise exposure, etc.) To learn more, see the publications listed at the end of this bulletin.

IMPORTANT

This is an overview of updates effective March 31, 2023. Consult the law directly to make sure you comply with all applicable requirements.

KEY INFORMATION

- Key changes include:
 - Harmonizing standards for certain types of personal protective equipment in Canada.
 - Providing flexibility in implementing some requirements in the workplace.
 - Removal of duplication in requirements.
 - Aligning with the OHS Act.

Part 1 – Definitions and general application

Definitions in Section 1 have been amended, and a few definitions have been added to the OHS Code. The amended definitions align with changes in specific sections of the OHS Code to provide additional clarity or align with the OHS Act.

Section 3, which specified various technical standards as adopted by the OHS Code, has been repealed. This change removes duplication, since the standards in Section 3 are already referenced throughout the OHS Code.

Part 3 – Specifications and certifications

Section 12 in Part 3 has been amended to include explosives. This change was made to align with changes to the OHS Act that came into effect on December 1, 2021.

Part 5 – Confined spaces

Section 52, which covers testing the atmosphere of a confined space before entry, has been amended to improve clarity, remove duplication, and ensure the appropriate work site party is accountable for health and safety (in alignment with roles and responsibilities specified in the OHS Act). The revised wording states it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the atmosphere of a confined space is tested by a competent worker before a worker enters the space.

Section 56 has been amended to allow the option of using remote confined space entry monitoring systems. This change will reduce administrative burden for employers by removing the need to apply for acceptances to use this technology.

New definitions for "remote monitoring system" and "tending worker" have been included in Part 1 for clarity.

Part 6 – Cranes, hoists, and lifting devices

Section 97 has been amended to require inspections of a roofer's hoist at reasonably practicable intervals instead of daily. This will give employers flexibility in making sure equipment is inspected when required.

Part 9 – Fall protection; Part 18 – Personal protective equipment; Part 39 – Tree care operations; Part 41 – Work requiring rope access

Changes to these parts involve updating technical standards to reflect current practices and technology in health and safety. The changes support harmonization of personal protective equipment requirements across Canada.

In alignment with the updates to these technical standards, the applicable manufacturing date for the personal protective equipment referenced in these parts has been updated as well. Personal protective equipment that previously had to meet a technical standard if manufactured on or after July 1, 2009 now has to meet the updated standard if manufactured on or after March 31, 2023.

Note employers **do not need to purchase** new personal protective equipment if the already-owned equipment meets the standard that was in place at the time of its manufacture

and remains in good working order. (See Section 3.1 of the OHS Code for details.)

Part 23 – Scaffolds and temporary work platforms

Section 341 has been amended to require inspections of suspended scaffolds to be done at reasonably practicable intervals instead of daily. This will give employers flexibility in making sure equipment is inspected when required.

Contact us

OHS Contact Centre

Anywhere in Alberta

- 1-866-415-8690
- Edmonton and surrounding area

- 780-415-8690

Deaf or hard of hearing (TTY)

- 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta)
- 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

Notify OHS of health and safety concerns

alberta.ca/file-complaint-online.aspx

Call the OHS Contact Centre if you have concerns that involve immediate danger to a person on a work site.

Report a workplace incident to OHS

alberta.ca/ohs-complaints-incidents.aspx

Website

alberta.ca/ohs

Get copies of the OHS Act, Regulation and Code

Alberta King's Printer

alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx

OHS

alberta.ca/ohs-act-regulation-code.aspx

For more information

Change highlights: Explosives – Part 33 in the OHS Code (LH005)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh005

Change highlights: First aid – Part 11 in the OHS Code (LH001)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh001

Change highlights: Managing the control of hazardous energy – Part 15 in the OHS Code (LH002)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh002

Change highlights: Mining – Part 36 in the OHS Code (LH006)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh006

Change highlights: Noise exposure – Part 16 in the OHS Code (LH003)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh003

Change highlights: Oil and gas wells – Part 37 in the OHS Code (LH007)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh007

Change highlights: Overhead power lines and electrical utility workers – Parts 17 and 40 in the OHS Code (LH004)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh004

CSA Standards (free account required)

community.csagroup.org/login.jspa

OHS Code review

alberta.ca/ohs-code-review.aspx

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