OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY CODE 2009
EXPLANATION GUIDE

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For the purpose of retaining the section numbers of this Code, those sections which are no longer required and which have been removed are indicated as “repealed”.

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Introduction

Purpose of the OHS Code Explanation Guide

This is the third edition of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code Explanation Guide. Its purpose is to explain the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009 in plain, easy-to-understand language. With the exception of Parts 9 and 36, changes made to this edition are indicated by a vertical line in the left hand margin. Parts 9 and 36 need to be read in their entirety because of the significant number of changes made to the text.

The OHS Code Explanation Guide does not provide “interpretations” of the requirements – interpretations are provided by the courts. Readers making use of this explanation guide are reminded that it has no legislative sanction. The OHS Code should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

The OHS Code Explanation Guide presents information that helps clarify the intent or application of each “rule” or “section” of the OHS Code. In some cases extensive background information is presented so that readers have a better appreciation of the subject material. Where appropriate, readers are directed to Safety Bulletins published by Alberta Employment and Immigration, to Web sites for documents dealing with specific topics, and to reference materials such as books and standards.

When a section in this second edition is shown as having been “repealed”, the section is no longer required and has been removed. The original section number has been retained so that the entire OHS Code does not need to be renumbered.

The Explanation Guide includes hundreds of illustrations. The illustrations are intended to help readers understand the requirements of the OHS Code and the accompanying explanations. The illustrations are not intended to be used as compliance guidelines, nor are they intended to reflect all the applicable requirements of the OHS Code.

Like the OHS Code, the OHS Code Explanation Guide is divided into three broad subject areas, and subdivided into 41 Parts or chapters as follows:

Core Requirements Applicable to All Industries (3 Parts)
- Part 1 — Definitions and general application
- Part 2 — Hazard assessment, elimination and control
- Part 3 — Specifications and certifications

Requirements Applicable to All Industries (26 Parts)
- Part 4 — Chemical hazards, biological hazards and harmful substances
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Need more information? Call the Contact Centre

The explanations presented in this explanation guide apply to most workplaces and work situations. However, not all situations can be foreseen and therefore are not discussed in this explanation guide. Readers having questions about a particular topic or issue should call the Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre at:

1-866-415-8690
(780-415-8690 in the Edmonton area)

Deaf or hard of hearing
- Edmonton  780-427-9999
- Other locations  1-800-232-7215

Readers can also contact the Contact Centre through the Workplace Health and Safety Web site at:

http://employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html