

# Occupational health and safety on farms and ranches

## OHS information for workers and employers

### KEY INFORMATION

- New technical rules in the OHS Code will be in effect December 1, 2018 for farms and ranches with waged, non-family workers.
- OHS requirements do not apply to:
  - Owners, family members, or volunteers of a farm or ranch operation.
  - The private residence including areas around the home, backyard or garden.
  - Recreational activities such as horseback riding or hunting.

### What are the Act, Regulation and Code?

- The *OHS Act* is the basis of the OHS system and sets the responsibilities for workplace health and safety. These are the rules that all work sites need to follow and came into effect on farms and ranches with waged, non-family workers on January 1, 2016.
- The OHS Regulations address requirements related to general administrative matters and broad health and safety rules and regulations.
- The OHS Code specifies the technical standards and rules that employers and workers need to comply with to fulfill their obligations. The unique requirements for farms and ranches are highlighted at the end of this bulletin.

A family member is defined as:

- The spouse or adult interdependent partner of the farm or ranch owner; or
- A child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or first cousin of the farm or ranch owner. This relation can be by blood, marriage, or adoption, or by virtue of an adult interdependent relationship.



These changes for farm and ranch workers have been finalized through strong collaboration with the agricultural sector and the Alberta government.

On December 1, 2018, waged, non-family farm and ranch workers will have similar rights and protections as other workers across Canada. Prior to 2016, Alberta was the only province where farms and ranches were still exempt from workplace health and safety laws. The changes address workplace hazards, safety training and maintenance of equipment.

### Who's affected?

The changes apply to farms and ranches who employ waged, non-family workers.

### Who's not affected?

The rules don't apply to:

- farm families who do not have any waged workers,
- unpaid farm and ranch workers, such as relatives, friends and neighbours helping out on the family farm,
- children doing chores or participating in 4-H, and
- recreational activities, such as hunting on farmland.

### How were the changes developed?

These changes were developed through extensive consultation with the agriculture sector. This collaboration demonstrates both sector and government willingness and commitment to work together to modernize farm and ranch rules to keep workers safe.

### What were the technical working groups?

In 2016, government formed four technical working groups (TWG) comprised of agriculture stakeholders, labour and health and safety professionals to review the OHS Code and to provide recommendations to government. Government released their recommendations in October 2017, and invited Albertans, the AgCoalition, and others in the agricultural sector to provide feedback. This input, along with the TWG recommendations, was used to help develop the new technical rules.

## What are the employer's responsibilities?

Employers are responsible for:

- Ensuring the health and safety of workers and others at the work site.
- Ensuring workers are properly trained, working with, or supervised by someone with the proper training.
- Informing workers about the hazards related to their work, and how to work in a healthy and safe manner.
- Preventing violence and harassment on the work site.
- Implementing a joint work site health and safety committee if there are 20 or more workers at the work site, or
- Having a health and safety representative if you have five to 19 workers.

## What are the worker's responsibilities?

Workers are responsible for:

- looking out for themselves and for others,
- reporting any hazards,
- following the employer's health and safety practices, and
- refraining from causing or participating in violence or harassment.

The Employment Standards Code applies to farms and ranches with waged employees who are not the owner or related to the owner. Workers who are family members of the owner will be exempt from the Code, including standards that previously applied.



## What are the basic rights of workers?

### Right to know

- All employers need to inform workers about potential hazards and have access to basic health and safety information on site.

### Right to participate in workplace health and safety

- Ensures workers are involved in health and safety discussions, including participation in health and safety committees.

### Right to refuse dangerous work

- Workers may refuse to perform dangerous work and are protected from any form of reprisal for exercising this right.

## What about contractors?

Contractors are different than waged, non-family workers. Contractors are responsible for ensuring that work being performed under their control does not endanger the health and safety of persons at the work site. All the requirements under OHS Code apply to contractors, and they, in their role as employers need to ensure worker health and safety. To determine if someone is a worker or a contractor, a link is provided at the end this bulletin.

## What are the new health and safety requirements for farms and ranches?

The OHS Code requires workplace hazards to be controlled and managed. Most of the OHS Code addresses hazards that other industries have in common with agriculture. However, government heard from the agriculture industry that some special rules are needed to reflect the realities on farms and ranches. This has led to the creation of unique requirements, specific to farms and ranches. This will allow for a more flexible approach for farmers and ranchers while still protecting the health and safety of waged, non-family workers at the work site. These unique requirements for farms and ranches are outlined in the table below. Note that where there is not a unique requirement, farms and ranches are expected to align with the requirements used in other sectors.

In many cases, these unique requirements refer to a “person who is competent” or a “service provider who is competent.” Competent under OHS, means adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to do work without supervision, or only minimal supervision. Many different people on a work site may be able to fill this role, depending on the circumstances, including an agricultural mechanic.

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
<b>Part 1 – Definitions and General Application</b>		
<p>Farming and ranching operations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the production of crops, including fruits and vegetables, through the cultivation of land,</li> <li>(b) the raising and maintenance of animals or birds, or</li> <li>(c) the keeping of bees.</li> </ul> <p>But do not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(d) the processing of food or other products from the operations referred to in clauses (a) through (c),</li> <li>(e) the operation of a greenhouse, mushroom farm, nursery or sod farm,</li> <li>(f) landscaping, or</li> <li>(g) the raising or boarding of pets.</li> </ul>	N/A	This defines which operations are covered under the farming and ranching requirements in the OHS Code.
<b>Part 3 – Specifications and Certifications</b>		
<b>Section 12 - Following specifications</b>		
<p>A person who is competent or a service provider who is competent in relation to a piece of equipment, tool, machine, etc..., may provide written specifications in place of using the manufacturer's specifications or specification developed by a professional engineer.</p> <p>This allows for modifications to equipment and tools, but ensures that the employer identifies lifting capacity, structural integrity, and stability of that equipment is written and available to workers that may use or work with that equipment.</p> <p>All equipment and supplies are erected, installed, assembled, started, operated, handled, stored, serviced, tested, adjusted, calibrated, maintained, repaired and dismantled according to those written specifications.</p> <p>The written specifications developed are not required to be certified by a professional engineer.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the rated capacity or other limitations on the operation of the equipment, or any part of it, or on the supplies as described in the manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, are not exceeded,</li> <li>• modifications to equipment that may affect its structural integrity or stability are performed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, and</li> <li>• equipment and supplies are erected, installed, assembled, started, operated, handled, stored, serviced, tested, adjusted, calibrated, maintained, repaired and dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications or the specifications certified by a professional engineer.</li> </ul>	<p>Farmers and ranchers regularly pursue innovative ways to use and modify equipment to improve productivity on the farm and ranch.</p> <p>The term 'competent' is defined in OHS legislation means, 'adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision.'</p>

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
<b>Part 3 – Specifications and Certifications</b> <b>Sections 13-15 - Manufacturer’s and professional engineer’s specifications, Certification by a professional engineer, and Approved equipment</b>		
<p>A person who is competent or a service provider who is competent in relation to the specifications in relation to a piece of equipment, tool, machine, etc..., may, instead of providing the certification required provide written modified specifications or procedures.</p> <p>The person or service provider developing the certification is responsible for ensuring that the equipment continues to be safe to use, maintain, operate, etc. according to the modified specifications.</p> <p>The person who is competent or service provider needs to state in writing that equipment is safe to operate in place of manufacturer’s specifications or specification developed by a professional engineer.</p>	<p>If this Code requires anything to be done in accordance with a manufacturer’s specifications, an employer may, instead of complying strictly with the manufacturer’s specifications, comply with modified specifications certified by a professional engineer.</p> <p>If this Code requires anything to be done in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and they are not available or do not exist, an employer needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop and comply with procedures that are certified by a professional engineer as designed to ensure the thing is done in a safe manner, or</li> <li>• have the equipment certified as safe to operate by a professional engineer at least every 12 calendar months.</li> </ul>	<p>The manufacturer’s specifications help identify health and safety hazards of the equipment and proper maintenance and operational procedures but in some cases equipment is old and these may not be available or the equipment has been modified.</p> <p>Specifications developed by a person or service provider who is competent can meet the requirement intent of the OHS Code.</p>
<b>Part 6 – Cranes, Hoists and Lifting Devices</b> <b>Section 62 - Rated load capacity</b>		
<p>The employer needs to ensure that the manufacturer’s rated load capacity - the maximum load for which a lifting device is designed and built - of the lifting device is readily available at the work site.</p> <p>The workers need to be trained to understand the significance of the rated load capacity in the safe operation of the equipment.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that a lifting device has a plate or weatherproof label permanently secured to it that legibly shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the manufacturer’s rated load capacity,</li> <li>• the manufacturer’s name, and</li> <li>• the model, serial number and year of manufacture or shipment date.</li> </ul> <p>If a lifting device is not commercially manufactured, a plate or weatherproof label needs to show the rated load capacity according to the professional engineer’s certification.</p>	<p>Workers need to be informed of the device’s capabilities to avoid an overload or a tip over of the lifting device. This amendment allows the employer the option of not affixing the label to the equipment, provided that the workers are made aware of the equipment limitations.</p>
<b>Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways and Ladders</b> <b>Sections 121-123 – Walkways, runways and ramps, Stairways, and Handrails on stairways</b>		
<p>The employer needs to ensure safe access to and from the work area for workers and equipment.</p> <p>Part 2 of the OHS Code relates to hazard assessments. It requires employers to</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that a walkway, runway or ramp is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong enough to support the equipment and workers,</li> <li>• at least 600 millimetres wide,</li> <li>• wide enough to ensure the safe</li> </ul>	<p>Access to and from a work area needs to be safe and strong enough to support equipment and workers. Instead of following the manufacturer’s specifications or those of a professional engineer, an employer is to make workers aware of any limitations.</p>

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
<p>assess a work site to identify existing or potential hazards before work begins. Employers need to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specify the controls to reduce or eliminate the hazards.</li> <li>• if reasonably practicable, to involve workers in assessing, controlling and eliminating potential hazards.</li> <li>• eliminate hazards when reasonably practicable to do so. If elimination is not practicable, hazards need to be controlled.</li> </ul>	<p>movement of equipment and workers, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipped with appropriate toe boards and guardrails.</li> </ul> <p>An employer needs to ensure that a stairway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with 5 or more risers has the appropriate handrail that runs the length of the stairs and can support the workers using it,</li> <li>• the width of the treads and the height of the rise of a stairway are uniform throughout its length,</li> <li>• the treads are level, and</li> <li>• any open sides has a handrail and an intermediate rail or equivalent safeguard on each open side.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Part 8 – Entrances, Walkways, Stairways and Ladders</b></p>		
<p><b>Section 130 – Fixed Ladders, Design criteria</b></p>		
<p>A person who is competent or a service provider who is competent can provide safe work procedures for workers using fixed ladders in place of replacing or constructing a ladder that complies with the requirements in place for other industries. Access to and from work areas needs to be strong enough for workers and their equipment.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that a fixed ladder installed on or after April 30, 2004 meets the requirements of PIP Standard STF05501 (February 2002), Fixed Ladders and Cages, published by the Construction Industry Institute. <a href="http://www.pip.org/downloads/Sample-STF05501.pdf">http://www.pip.org/downloads/Sample-STF05501.pdf</a> Despite the standards referenced, an employer may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use applicable Canadian material and process standards if the employer ensures that the fixed ladder is designed and installed in accordance with established engineering principles, and</li> <li>• allow the inside diameter of a cage hoop to be as great as 760 millimetres.</li> </ul>	<p>Provides an alternative to having to follow manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, in keeping with the spirit of the recommendation provided by the technical working groups.</p>
<p><b>Part 9 – Fall Protection</b></p>		
<p><b>Section 159 – Procedures in place of fall protection equipment</b></p>		
<p>Procedures can be used in place of fall protection equipment to keep workers safe where they are exposed to a fall hazard.</p>	<p>An employer may develop and use procedures in place of fall protection equipment, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is not reasonably practicable to use one of the fall protection systems described in this Part, and</li> <li>• use of procedures in place of fall protection equipment is restricted to the following situations:</li> </ul>	<p>Storage bins used on farms and ranches vary in structure, while some may not be substantial enough to withstand fall protection requirements, safe work procedures can be used.</p>

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the installation or removal of fall protection equipment;</li> <li>○ roof inspection;</li> <li>○ emergency repairs;</li> <li>○ at-height transfers between equipment and structures if allowed by the manufacturer's specifications.</li> </ul>	
<b>Part 16 – Noise Exposure</b> <b>Section 217 – Noise control design</b>		
<p>Alterations, renovations or repairs begun or work processes or equipment introduced before December 1, 2018 do not need to be designed and constructed so that the continuous noise levels generated are not more than 85 dBA or are as low as reasonably practicable.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that the following are designed and constructed in such a way that the continuous noise levels generated are not more than 85 dBA or are as low as reasonably practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a new work site,</li> <li>● significant physical alterations, renovations or repairs to an existing work site or work area,</li> <li>● a work process introduced to the work site or work area,</li> <li>● significant equipment introduced to the work site or work area.</li> </ul>	<p>A similar grandfathering clause was provided when this provision came into force for all other stakeholders, based on the in-force date for the OHS Code.</p>
<b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 256 – Operator responsibilities</b>		
<p>The operator of powered mobile equipment needs to use the seatbelts and other safety equipment, and ensure that passengers use the seatbelts and other safety equipment, in the powered mobile equipment.</p> <p>If seatbelt use is determined not practicable through a hazard assessment, the employer may allow for alternative measures to be used in place of requiring seatbelts.</p>	<p>The operator needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● report to the employer any conditions affecting the safe operation of the equipment,</li> <li>● operate the equipment safely,</li> <li>● maintain full control of the equipment at all times,</li> <li>● use the seat belts and other safety equipment in the equipment,</li> <li>● ensure that passengers in the powered mobile equipment use the seat belts and other safety equipment in the powered mobile equipment.</li> </ul>	<p>If an operator is riding powered mobile equipment under low risk conditions and getting on and off frequently, it may not be practical to wear a seatbelt and other precautions, such as operating at low speed, can be used.</p> <p>Transportation regulations require seat belt use on public roadways, if one is present.</p>
<b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 257 – Visual inspection</b>		
<p>The operator of powered mobile equipment is not required to conduct a visual inspection of the equipment, unless there is a hazard identified through the hazard assessment that requires a visual inspection to be performed to help control that identified hazard.</p>	<p>Before operating powered mobile equipment, the operator needs to complete a visual inspection of the equipment and the surrounding area to ensure that the powered mobile equipment is in safe operating condition and that no worker, including the operator, is endangered when</p>	<p>Some work on farms will be in open fields or other areas with few changes from initial the inspection at the beginning of a shift. If a hazard assessment finds those types of hazards, then the requirements of visual inspections will not apply. Where conditions change quickly and many operators may</p>

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<p>If the hazard assessment does not identify any of those hazards, a visual inspection will not be required.</p>	<p>the equipment is started up.</p> <p>While in operation, the operator needs to complete a visual inspection of the equipment and surrounding area at intervals required by the manufacturer's specifications or, in the absence of manufacturer's specifications, the employer's written developed operating procedures.</p>	<p>use a piece of equipment, visual inspection may be required for each use.</p>
<p><b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 260 – Inspection and maintenance</b></p>		
<p>An employer needs to ensure powered mobile equipment is inspected and maintained by a person who is competent. Maintenance according the manufacturer's specifications is not required. A person who is competent or a service provider can develop written procedures to ensure worker safety.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that powered mobile equipment is inspected by a competent worker for defects and conditions that are hazardous or may create a hazard. This needs to be in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>If an inspection indicates that powered mobile equipment is hazardous or potentially hazardous, an employer needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure the health and safety of a worker who may be exposed to the hazard is protected,</li> <li>• the powered mobile equipment is not operated until the defect is repaired or the condition is corrected, and</li> <li>• the defect is repaired or the unsafe condition corrected as soon as reasonably practicable.</li> </ul> <p>However, if an inspection indicates that the powered mobile equipment is potentially hazardous but the equipment can be operated safely, an employer needs to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the operator is made aware of the potential hazard, and</li> <li>• the defect or condition is repaired as soon as reasonably practicable.</li> </ul> <p>A record of the inspections and maintenance carried out needs to be kept at the work site and readily available to a worker who operates the powered mobile equipment.</p>	<p>Farmers have the ability to have a person who is competent or a service provider develop written procedures for powered mobile equipment maintenance to ensure worker safety.</p>

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
<b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 270 – Rollover protective structures</b>		
<p>The employer needs to perform a hazard assessment relating to the potential for the following types of powered mobile equipment weighing 700 kilograms or more to roll over while it is being operated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tracked (crawler) or wheeled bulldozers, loaders, tractors or skidders, other than those operating with side booms,</li> <li>• back hoes with a limited horizontal swing of 180 degrees,</li> <li>• motor graders,</li> <li>• self-propelled wheeled scrapers,</li> <li>• industrial, agricultural and horticultural tractors, ride-on lawnmowers, and</li> <li>• wheeled trenchers.</li> </ul> <p>The hazard assessment needs to include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stability, taking into account the configuration of the equipment and attachments mounted on or pulled or pushed by the equipment,</li> <li>• ground conditions where the equipment will be operated, including the presence of ditches, drop-offs, and ground irregularities such as holes, soft spots or mounds,</li> <li>• grades on which the powered mobile equipment will be operated,</li> <li>• nature of the activities to be performed with the equipment,</li> <li>• training and experience of the operator, and</li> <li>• presence or absence of a supervisor.</li> </ul> <p>If a hazard assessment identifies rollover as a potential hazard, the employer needs to either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equip the powered mobile equipment with a rollover protective structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ supplied by the manufacturer, or</li> <li>○ a service provider or a person who is competent has stated in writing will provide adequate protection to workers,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• institute safe work procedures to eliminate the possibility of rollover.</li> </ul>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that the following types of powered mobile equipment weighing 700 kilograms or more have rollover protective structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tracked (crawler) or wheeled bulldozers, loaders, tractors or skidders, other than those operating with side booms,</li> <li>• back hoes with a limited horizontal swing of 180 degrees,</li> <li>• motor graders,</li> <li>• self-propelled wheeled scrapers,</li> <li>• industrial, agricultural and horticultural tractors, including ride-on lawnmowers,</li> <li>• wheeled trenchers.</li> </ul> <p>Rollover protective structures installed on or after July 1, 2009, comply with the applicable requirements of specific standards outlined in the OHS Code.</p> <p>If powered mobile equipment is not referred to above and a hazard assessment identifies rollover as a potential hazard, the employer needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equip the powered mobile equipment with a rollover protective structure that is either supplied by the manufacturer or certified by a professional engineer as being suited to that equipment, or</li> <li>• institute safe work procedures that eliminate the possibility of rollover.</li> </ul>	<p>This is similar to the agricultural requirement in British Columbia for ROPS.</p> <p>Data show that tractor rollovers are one of the top five causes of fatalities on farms and ranches provincially, nationally and internationally. The use of ROPS combined with seat belts has been proven to reduce injuries and fatalities significantly.</p> <p>Where it is reasonable and practical, safe work procedures can be used to prevent equipment rollover.</p>



Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
<b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 276 – Riding on loads</b>		
<p>A worker may be transported on mobile equipment not designed for the transportation of workers if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the worker is safely positioned, and</li> <li>the mobile equipment is operated at a speed of no more than 10 km/h, and</li> <li>the terrain is suitable to enable the worker to be safely transported.</li> </ul> <p>However, a worker cannot be transported on a tongue or drawbar connecting mobile equipment together, or the fork or other equipment implements that pose a risk of injury to the worker.</p>	<p>A person cannot ride on top of a load that is being moved.</p>	<p>Similar to British Columbia, the requirement specifies this can only be done under controlled conditions to protect workers.</p>
<b>Part 19 – Powered Mobile Equipment</b> <b>Section 278 – Tank trucks</b>		
<p>The operator is required to ensure that a conductive tank truck is bonded if the truck is being used to transfer flammable, combustible or explosive materials directly to powered mobile equipment. For greater certainty, on a farming and ranching operation, the operator needs to ensure that a conductive tank truck containing flammable, combustible or explosive materials is bonded when used to transfer flammable, combustible or explosive materials to a stationary storage container that is grounded.</p>	<p>The operator needs to ensure that a tank truck containing flammable, combustible or explosive materials is bonded and grounded while</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>its loading lines are connected or disconnected, and</li> <li>the contents of the tank truck are being transferred.</li> </ul> <p>This does not apply to a commercial tank truck designed to transport flammable, combustible or explosive materials.</p>	<p>Tank truck and receiving container or equipment have to be conductive for bonding or grounding to work effectively. Bonding ensures no difference in electrostatic potential between the tank truck and the receiving container. Grounding ensures any electrostatic charge created is bled off to earth but may not be practicable under all conditions. Grounding of stationary storage containers containing flammable, combustible or explosive materials is a common practice and typically is a one-time installation.</p>
<b>Part 23 – Scaffolding and Temporary Work Platforms</b> <b>Section 326 – Tagging requirements</b>		
<p>An employer may perform a hazard assessment, as set out in Part 2, instead of complying with the scaffold tagging requirements applicable to other industries.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that a scaffold is colour coded using tags at each point of entry indicating its status and condition as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a green tag with “Safe for Use”, or similar wording, to indicate it is safe for use,</li> <li>a yellow tag with “Caution: Potential or Unusual Hazard”, or similar wording, to indicate the presence of a potential or unusual hazard,</li> <li>a red tag with “Unsafe for Use”, or similar wording, to indicate it is not safe to use.</li> </ul> <p>An employer needs to ensure that scaffolds</p>	<p>The completion of a written hazard assessment and communicating the limitations of the scaffolding to workers meets the intent. The employer should have this completed prior to workers using the scaffold and the hazard assessment needs to be updated whenever conditions change.</p>

Unique Farm and Ranch Requirement	Requirement for other Industries	Explanation
	are inspected and tagged by a competent worker before it is used for the first time and at intervals of not more than 21 calendar days while workers work from the scaffold or materials are stored on. If a scaffold is erected or not used for more than 21 consecutive days it needs to be re-inspected before use. A tag attached to a scaffold under this section expires 21 calendar days after the date of the inspection it records.	
<b>Part 24 – Toilets and Washing Facilities</b> <b>Section 357 – Toilet facilities</b>		
<p>A farming and ranching operation is exempt from the requirements of supplying toilet facilities where access to toilets cannot reasonably be provided. If toilet facilities are available on the work site, workers need to have access.</p> <p>Despite the above, an employer needs to provide workers with sanitary and hygiene supplies.</p>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that a work site has the number of toilets for each sex that are required in separate toilet facilities. A work site may have only one toilet facility for the use of both sexes if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the total number of workers at the work site is never more than 10, and</li> <li>• the door to the toilet facility can be locked from the inside.</li> </ul> <p>An employer needs to ensure that a toilet facility is located so that it is readily accessible to the workers who may use it.</p>	<p>On farms and ranches, workers may be working farm from a shop or barn where facilities are available so flexibility is allowed while still protecting worker hygiene.</p>
<b>Part 25 – Tools, Equipment and Machinery</b> <b>Section 364 – Moving workers</b>		
<p>If it is not reasonably practicable to use another machine or equipment that is designed for its purpose, workers may be raised or lowered in loader buckets if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a hazard assessment has been completed,</li> <li>• fall protection is provided if the worker is being raised over 3 metres,</li> <li>• the bucket is secured against unintended movement, and</li> <li>• the machinery or equipment to which the bucket is attached remains stationary on the ground.</li> </ul>	<p>An employer needs to ensure that machinery or equipment used to move, raise or lower workers is designed by the manufacturer or certified by a professional engineer as being appropriate for that purpose.</p>	<p>This work practice is only permitted in rare circumstances under controlled conditions to protect workers.</p>
<b>Part 35 – Health Care and Industries with Biological Hazards</b> <b>Section 527 – Recapping needles</b>		
<p>A person may recap needles that are designed by their manufacturer to be recapped.</p>	<p>A person cannot recap waste needles.</p>	<p>The prohibition of the recapping of waste needles is intended to prevent needle stick injuries in healthcare settings. On farms and ranches, needles can be recapped as they are intended to be reused.</p>

**Get Copies of *OHS Act*,  
Regulation and Code**

**Alberta Queen's Printer**  
[qp.gov.ab.ca](http://qp.gov.ab.ca)

**Occupational Health and Safety**  
[www.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety.aspx)

**Contact Us**

**OHS Contact Centre**

Throughout Alberta  
• 1-866-415-8690

Edmonton & surrounding area  
• 780-415-8690

Deaf or hearing impaired:  
• 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta)  
• 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

**Potentially Serious Incident  
online reporting service**  
[alberta.ca/report-potentially-serious-incidents.aspx](http://alberta.ca/report-potentially-serious-incidents.aspx)

**Websites**

[alberta.ca/ohs-contact us](http://alberta.ca/ohs-contact-us)  
[alberta.ca/employment-standards](http://alberta.ca/employment-standards)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Occupational health and safety on Alberta  
farms and ranches (BP029)**

**Do I need a joint work site health and safety  
committee or a health and safety  
representative? (LI037)**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li037](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li037)

**Reporting and Investigating injuries and  
incidents (LI016)**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li016](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li016)

**Reporting and investigating potentially  
serious incidents (LI016-1)**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li016-1](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li016-1)

**Role and duties of government occupational  
health and safety officer (LI046)**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li046](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li046)

**WHMIS 2015 Information for employers**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/ch008](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/ch008)

**WHMIS 2015 Information for workers**  
[ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/ch008](http://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/ch008)

**Employment Standards Tool Kit for  
Employers (ES0006)**  
[alberta.ca/assets/documents/es-employer-toolkit-highrez.pdf](http://alberta.ca/assets/documents/es-employer-toolkit-highrez.pdf)

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