MHSA

A SAFER WORKPLACE STARTS HERE

SAFETY SCOOP

Disclaimer

The information presented in this publication is **not** a definitive guide to **government regulations** and does **not** relieve persons using this publication from their **responsibilities under applicable legislation**. The appropriate OHS legislation should be **consulted**.

Individual counselling and advice is available from the Manufacturers' Health & Safety Association.

Occupational Health & Safety

Occupational Health & Safety (**OHS**) is the **provincial** level governance of **health and safety law** in Alberta.

OHS legislation applies to **all workplaces** and **all industries** across the Province.

Occupational Health & Safety

The OHS legislation is made up **3 specific categories**:

OHS ACT	Provisions for the protection of workers, the maintenance of physical, psychological and social well-being of workers, and to prevent incidents, injuries and occupational diseases.
OHS REGULATIONS	Provides the Minister with resources to establish research, education and surveillance programs.
OHS CODE	Establishes the technical standards and best practices used by industry.

OHS Code Changes

The **OHS Code** has recently undergone a **review** to ensure the information within **remains relevant** to the industry.

As of **March 31, 2023,** a new version of the **OHS Code** will be released to reflect changes identified during the review.

OHS Code Changes

Key changes that **may impact workers** in the Manufacturing Industry **most** significantly, include:

- Part 11 **First Aid**
- Part 15 **Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy** (LOTO)
- Part 16 **Noise Exposure**

OHS Code Changes

Other **noteworthy** changes to the following areas should be observed:

- Part 5 **Confined Space**
- Part 6 **Cranes, Hoists & Lifting Devices**
- Part 9 **Fall Protection**
- Part 18 **Personal Protective Equipment** (PPE)
- Part 23 **Scaffolds & Temporary Work Platforms**

Read more about the OHS Code changes by clicking here

Part 11 - First Aid

OHS has aligned the Code with **CSA Standard Z1210-17** – *First Aid Training for the Workplace*.

As a result, there will be a **shift in language** and additional requirements for workplace first aid **services and supplies**.

Part 11 - First Aid

Training Comparison:

2022	2023
Emergency First Aid	**Basic First Aid**
Standard First Aid	**Intermediate First Aid**
Advanced First Aid	**Advanced First Aid**

Training providers will offer training using this language **starting March 31**. Those with **current** valid First Aid Certificates will **assume the new title** until that ticket expires.

Part 11 - First Aid

The **OHS Code Schedule 2, Tables 4-7** will be revised to reflect the changes in **terminology, supplies and equipment**.

The CSA **Standard requires additional** first aid kit supplies to be **available for worker use**.

See the OHS Change Highlights bulletin for specifics

Part 15 – Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

Part 15 of the OHS Code sets the parameters for workplace Lock out Tag Out (**LOTO**) programs.

A **significant change** to note is the addition of information on making machinery **inoperative or** "**otherwise safe**" to allow for the safe **maintenance or repairs** to equipment that must remain **in operation**.

Part 15 – Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

There has also been some **clarification** to the section on "**Securing Isolation**" to make it clear that it is the **employer's responsibility** to **supply locks** to workers and to keep **accurate records**.

Part 15 – Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

The **employer** is also responsible for **transferring a lock** to another worker and ensuring the information is **clearly tracked and documented**.

Part 15 – Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

If using a **complex group locking** procedure, a procedure must be developed **in writing** to allow for **adequate protection** from hazardous energy.

Including Provisions for:

- Size & type of machinery/equipment
- Accessibility of isolation devices & how many used
- Number of workers involved
- Length of isolation
- Any other necessary securement requirements

Part 15 – Managing the Control of Hazardous Energy

For workers who perform "**piping and pigging**", or pipeline **testing**, there will be new wording of the OHS Code to **clarify operational requirements**.

See the OHS Change Highlights bulletin for more information

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

Noise is one of the **most prominent hazards** that **affects workers** in almost **every industry**.

Part 16 of the OHS Code covers the requirements to **protect workers** from exposure to **occupational noise.**

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

OHS will **revise the wording** in the Code to provide clarity, as well as make updates to the **technical standards and terminology** to reflect current standards.

Including:

- Reduced **action limit** for noise testing
- **New** requirement for **fit testing**
- Clarification of **competency** of noise assessment technicians

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

The **threshold** for conducting a **noise exposure assessment** will be **lowered to 82 dBA** from 85 dBA.

This will assure that workers are **not over-exposed** to occupational noise and thus should **lower the risk** of work-related **hearing loss**.

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

Fit testing of hearing protection devices will become **mandatory**.

Device fit testing must meet the **CSA standard Z94.2-14** – *Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care and Use*.

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

Tips for performing Qualitative Fit Testing:

FOAM PLUGS	EAR MUFFS
- Ensure plugs are fully inserted into the ear canal. - Cup hands tightly over ears and assess sounds. If muffled, the plug is not secure. - Talk loudly. Your voice should sound hollow. - Assess if background noises are quieter than without plugs.	- Follow manufacturer specs when donning ear muffs. - Be sure the ear muff covers the whole ear. There should not be anything between the ear and the muff (hair, eyeglasses, etc.) - Assess if background noises are quieter than without the ear muffs.

Part 16 – Noise Exposure

There will be **more clarity** provided on Quantitative Fit testing, audiometric testing and administrating a **Noise Management Program** released with the **March 31 Code changes**.

See the OHS Code Change Highlight for a summary

Summary

If these, or any of the other, **OHS Code changes** may impact **your work**, it is your responsibility to seek out the information **as soon as** it is made available.

Keep an eye out on the **MHSA** website, the **Alberta Government** website or the **King's Printer** for updates!

Have Questions? Contact us!

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Thank you!