

Young or New Worker Orientation

On 26 July 2007 new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations will come into effect in B.C. pertaining to proper orientation of new and young workers. The reason for this addition to the regs is that young and new workers continue to be injured or killed in the workplace at rates well above the provincial average. I have reviewed these rules and they are not fundamentally different from any previous OH&S regulations. In fact they are not new at all, but simply gather together into one Part already existing requirements for orienting new and young workers. What the new regulations do is spell out very specifically the topics that must be covered in new or young worker's workplace orientation and training. They also specifically require documentation of these orientations. The exercise of due diligence requires documentation as a practice, but the new regulations now specify this as a regulatory requirement.

If you have been orientating workers according to the OH&S regulations these new requirements should not be an onerous adaption. In fact their prescriptive bent will provide you with a clear list of what is required against which you can compare your present practices. If this is all new to you then the regulations and the guidelines spell out quite clearly what is required. A pdf of the new regs and guidelines is attached.

Vehicles 5000kgs GVW New Requirements

If you are operating a commercial vehicle rated at over 5000kgs GVW, including pick ups, you are now required to keep a daily log book*, not exceed a 14 hour work day, which includes driving and other work, and report to weigh scales. Both RCMP and the province's Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) inspectors will be enforcing the regulations which have been in effect federally since 1 January 2007. The province has adopted the new requirements effective 1 March 2007. The commercial vehicle designation applies to silviculture operations trucks over 5000kgs GVW transporting trees, equipment and people.

The BC Forest Safety Council Forestry TruckSafe website www.bcforestsafe.org/trucksafe has a log book template available for downloading. It is intended for logging truck operation but can be adapted for silviculture driving. We understand that CVSE plans to use soft enforcement initially for these requirements which may mean written warnings. That policy will expire by the end of June. The RCMP are already writing tickets; mostly advisory, unless their is a gross violation.

There is some discussion around whether these requirements are practical for lighter trucks and that they possibly pose a burden on some operators. Depending on those talks the rules may change to only apply to vehicles over 11,800kgs GVW. But if the present requirements are rescinded that won't happen for some time. In the meantime act accordingly.

*For purposes of the above federal and provincial regulations vehicles operating within 160 kms of there home terminal need not keep daily log books. Home terminal is defined

as "the place of business of a carrier at which a driver ordinarily reports for work" and can include "a temporary work site designated by the carrier." This exemption does not overrule the keeping of operator daily log books for other regulatory purposes or the requirements of company health and safety systems and due diligence.