

Amended Rules

on Refusal of Unsafe Work

Employers are now required to inform workers about a previous work refusal before reassigning the work.

Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) came into effect on August 22, 2022.

- Strengthening worker protections on the right to refuse unsafe work.



WORK SAFE BC
OHS Changes



BC Forest Safety

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Amended Rules on the Refusal of Unsafe Work



A worker's right to refuse unsafe work is an integral element in ensuring work is carried out safely. All workers in BC have the right to refuse work where there is reasonable cause to believe it would create an undue hazard to their health or safety.

Old Rules

Prior to the amendment, the regulation did not explicitly prohibit the reassignment of refused work, or require the disclosure that another worker had refused the task due to health or safety concerns.

New Rules

Under the new rules, employers are required to notify workers in writing of any unresolved work refusal due to safety concerns. It also requires employers to tell the subsequent worker the specific reasons the first worker felt the task was unsafe. The employer must also explain why the task would not create an undue hazard to their health and safety.

Workers or employers with questions about the right to refuse unsafe work can contact WorkSafeBC's prevention information line toll-free at 1-888-621-7233.

Resources:

- [Media Backgrounder: The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work](#)
- [Regulatory amendment: A primer on refusing unsafe work](#)
- [WorkSafeBC and Government Action Review: Crossing the Rubicon](#)

**"This amendment makes the right to refuse process more transparent and allows workers to make informed decisions."
- Dan Strand, Director of Prevention Field Services at WorksafeBC**



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