

# NEW AND YOUNG WORKER SAFETY

Starting a new job in wood products manufacturing can be both exciting and challenging. But it is a fast-paced environment, and new employees can easily become overwhelmed, especially if they are not properly prepped for all the aspects of their new role.

Everyone has been the new person at one time so it's perfectly normal to feel nervous working with new people and being assigned unfamiliar tasks. Here are six things you should know to be successful, and most importantly safe, in your new position.

## 6 STEPS TO SAFETY:

1. UNDERSTAND SAFETY PROTOCOLS
2. COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY
3. BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS
4. FOLLOW TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS
5. REPORT UNSAFE CONDITIONS
6. YOUR RIGHTS AS A WORKER



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## UNDERSTANDING SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Familiarize yourself with all safety procedures and protocols.
- Learn how to properly use personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Understand emergency procedures and responses.
- Always adhere to the safety guidelines provided by your employer.

## BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Be mindful of potential hazards such as moving machinery and hazardous materials.
- Pay attention to where you place your hands and feet to avoid injuries.
- Take steps to prevent accidents like slips, trips, and falls.

## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

- Seek clarification immediately if you hear an unfamiliar term.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions if you're unsure about ANY tasks or procedures.
- Maintain open and clear communication with your supervisors and colleagues.
- Remember that learning workplace terminology takes time.
- Get clarification of unfamiliar terms.

## FOLLOW TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Pay close attention during all training sessions.
- Follow instructions to the letter.
- Proper training is crucial for both safety and efficiency.
- Learn and follow lockout protocols to ensure personal safety.
- If you're ever unsure about safety, stop and seek guidance.
- Always prioritize safety over production speed.

## REPORT UNSAFE CONDITIONS

- Immediately report any unsafe conditions or practices to your supervisor. Your observations can help prevent accidents and enhance overall safety. You might notice issues that others have overlooked.
- Always prioritize your safety and the safety of your coworkers.

## WORKER RIGHTS

As a worker in BC, WorkSafeBC regulations ensure you have the right to work in a safe and healthy work environment. These include:

- Right to Know: Be informed about workplace hazards and receive training on safe handling.
- Right to Participate: Engage in health and safety activities, including committees and policy discussions.
- Right to Refuse Unsafe Work: Refuse tasks or conditions you deem unsafe and report them to your supervisor or employer, who is then required to investigate and address the issue.
- Right to No Discrimination: Protection from discrimination or retaliation for exercising health and safety rights, such as reporting unsafe conditions or refusing unsafe work.

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