

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LEGAL ALERT

Occupational Health and Safety Changes

by Lynn Michelle Angotti

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The Alberta government takes workplace health and safety very seriously. In 2004, when the government introduced the new Occupational Health and Safety Code, it included a mandatory public consultation and legislation review process every two years. The first two year cycle has been completed.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

There have been some major changes to the legislation, which changes can be reviewed on Alberta's Workplace Health and Safety web site:

1. Changes to lock-out procedures
2. Changes in relation to hazardous locations, including pipelines and other hazardous energy locations (locations with the potential for an explosive atmosphere to be created)
3. Addition of provisions relating to welding and gas welding
4. The adoption of several updated and new standards

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

Employers have until **February 1, 2007** to implement any relevant legislative changes. You will need to revise your safety manuals and policies, establish the proper new procedures, make any necessary physical workplace changes, and train your workers prior to this date for any amendments that impact your workplace or work site.

In addition, the new public consultation cycle is in progress. The deadline for you to make recommendations to Workplace Health and Safety Policy and Legislation is now March 31, 2007.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Parlee McLaws LLP has significant occupational health

and safety legal experience, so that we can assist you in

1. the review and revision of your health and safety policies, procedures and manuals for compliance with safety legislation;
2. relevant considerations and contractual provisions relating to responsibility for safety at multi-employer work sites;
3. assisting you in dealing with Occupational Health and Safety Officers in the event of a work site accident; and
4. defending you in the event of a prosecution by Occupational Health and Safety.

Should any of these matters affect you, please contact one of our Labour and Employment lawyers:

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