

Changes to Health & Safety Regulations

The General Health and Safety Regulations are rapidly changing across Canada and the United States. These changes are putting "explicate responsibility" on the employer to provide objective evidence of due diligence for training workers, continuously training and ensuring training material content is in compliance to applicable safety regulations and standards.

The General Health & Safety Regulations says that an employer must do everything reasonably practicable to protect the health and safety of their workers. This means equipment must be maintained in safe working order and dangerous chemicals must be properly labelled and stored.

The employer is responsible to set up safe work practices at the worksite and make sure these practices are followed. It is up to the employer to make sure workers have the skills and training needed to do their jobs safely.

In addition, the employer must tell their workers of any dangers which are at the job site. If controlled products (such as dangerous substances or chemicals) are made, stored or used at the worksite, the OH&S requires they employer to provide label and Material Safety Data Sheets.

Workers must refuse to perform a job if they believe that doing the job would put themselves or fellow workers in imminent danger.

These are some the most Pertinent common changes for Lifting Equipment from OH&S.

Definitions

"Competent", in relation to a worker, means adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to safely perform work, without or with only a minimal degree of supervision, that is the subject-matter of the relevant provision of this regulation.

Direction and instruction of Workers

"Direct supervision" means a relationship between a competent worker and worker who is not competent whereby;

- (a) there is a personal and continuous visual supervision of the worker who is not competent by the competent worker and,
- (b) the two workers are readily and clearly able to communicate with each other.

Operator Requirements

An employer must ensure that a crane, hoist or lifting device is only operated by a competent worker who has been instructed and authorized to operate the equipment.

Prior to operating a crane, hoist or lifting device, an operator must be capable of demonstrating familiarity with the equipment's operation instructions and the code of hoisting signals for hoisting operations.

No worker other than the competent worker designated by the employer may operate a crane, hoist or lifting device.

Operator Training

An employer must ensure that the operator of a tool, equipment or machinery is trained in the safe operation of that tool, equipment or machinery.

The employer must ensure that the training program includes:

- Selection of appropriate tool, equipment or machinery,
- Limitations of the tool, equipment or machinery,
- An operator's pre-use inspection,
- The use of protective equipment and apparel,
- Operating skills according to the manufacturer's specifications for that tool, equipment or machinery,
- Basic mechanical requirements of the tool, equipment or machinery, and
- Hazards specific to the operation of the tool, equipment or machinery at the work site where it is being used.