

Council of Construction Associations

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COCA WCB Update #414 October 6, 2008

Canadian Standards Available on Line at No Charge!

After numerous requests from COCA, WorkSafeBC has just announced that the safety standards from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) are now available online. (CSA owns the copyright to their material and they were reluctant to make it available.)

This new service means that contractors will no longer have to spend time and money ordering the paper copies of the Standards or subscribing online.

For example, OHS Regulation 8.33, which deals with Respiratory Protection, states that:

8.33 Selection

(1) The employer, in consultation with the worker and the occupational health and safety committee, if any, or the worker health and safety representative, if any, must select appropriate respiratory protective equipment in accordance with CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-93, Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators.

(2) Only respiratory protective equipment which meets the requirements of a standard acceptable to the Board may be used for protection against airborne contaminants in the workplace.

Until now, obtaining the CSA Standard was time-consuming and costly.

Now you follow these steps to register (once only) and get the Standards.

1. Go to this online address: <http://www.ohs.csa.ca/>
2. Then click on: View CSA Standards Referenced in OHS Regulations
3. Register one time only online; this take less than one minute.
4. Find the Standard you need using the CSA code number – for example, Z94.44.93, Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators.
5. Click on the Standard to view it. You can increase the size of the document for easier reading.

COCA had been lobbying WorkSafeBC for several years to make an arrangement with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) that would provide access online to the Standards that are relevant for occupational health and safety.

The CSA Standards are incorporated within the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health & Safety Regulation. Since WorkSafeBC Regulation refers to the CSA Standards, it is logical to have these standards readily available. Unfortunately, the CSA Standards were available only to subscribers or to those who purchased one Standard at a time, at a cost that was about \$35-\$50 per Standard.

The new arrangement will assist contractors with up-to-date, readily available and no cost information for safety compliance.