

**Council of Construction Associations**  
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #454 November 2, 2009

WorkSafeBC now provides a more streamlined approval process for wire rope guardrails as a result of COCA request.

As a result of issues identified by COCA and the initiative of COCA Board of Director member Jeff Lyth, WorkSafeBC has modified the process for the use of wire rope guardrails.

The new approval process is briefly described below.

In summary, an employer who wishes to use wire rope guardrails must apply to WorkSafeBC with a telephone call and include the address where the guardrails will be used.

The employer must contact the Prevention Information Line (604-276-3100 or 1-888-621-7233) or the local WorkSafeBC office to request approval from a prevention officer before installing the guardrail system. Before approval can be granted, the following information should be available on site for the prevention officer to review:

- A description of the work to be performed
  - A sketch or drawing showing the arrangement of the guardrail system
  - A plan showing the position of posts, their distance from the edges of the work surface, and the elevation of the work surface
  - The specifications of the rope that will be used
  - The tension required in the rope and the means to achieve it
  - The means for testing rope tension during inspections of the system
  - The specifications of the debris net, if one will be used
  - A fall protection plan, if one is required by the *Regulation*
- The guardrail system must not be installed until approval is granted.

The guardrails must meet the regulation standard. A WorkSafeBC Officer will then attend the site and determine if the wire rope guardrail meets the standard.

This process is more streamlined than the one it replaces, where the employer had to apply for a variance through the Regulatory Practice section of WorkSafeBC and sometimes wait weeks or months for an approval.

The wire rope guardrail Regulation itself is also being reviewed by WorkSafeBC. Another COCA Update to be issued shortly will describe the Regulation review. It will be essential to have support for the proposed wire rope regulatory change. The COCA proposal will be requesting a more practical approach and will be circulated shortly.

**Please go to the WorkSafeBC web site for the complete Guideline.**

[http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart4.asp#SectionNumber:G4.58\\_4](http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart4.asp#SectionNumber:G4.58_4)

And for tilt up construction, please read the information at this web site:

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart11.asp#SectionNumber:G11.2-4>