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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #492 November 2, 2010

COCA Recommendations on Regulations Accepted by WorkSafeBC

COCA is pleased to advise that its recommendations for improving the WSBC Occupational Health & Safety Regulation have successfully gone through Public Hearings and been approved by the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors. The new changes will take effect on February 1, 2011.

This follows Public Hearings in May/June, 2010, attended by COCA and position papers drafted and submitted by COCA. Thanks to all of the employers and associations who spoke or wrote in favour of the following positive changes.

Please see the WorkSafeBC web site for complete information on the Regulation changes:

[http://worksafebc.com/regulation\\_and\\_policy/public\\_hearings/june10\\_feedback/law\\_40\\_40\\_20.asp](http://worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/public_hearings/june10_feedback/law_40_40_20.asp)

**The changes are briefly summarized below, with comments.**

**PART 4: GENERAL CONDITIONS (4.18)**

In this Occupational Health and Safety Regulation:  
*"utility service"* means a petroleum pipeline, sanitary sewer line, enclosed storm sewer, water line, steam line or electrical cable.

The purpose of this proposed change is to make it clear that the employer must contact the owner of a utility without delay if there is a hit or damage to any utility infrastructure. The new proposed definition is that a utility service.

## **PART 4: GENERAL CONDITIONS WORK AREA GUARDS AND HANDRAILS (4.58(4)(b))**

An employer used to have to get prior approval from WorkSafeBC before installing wire or rope guardrails. This requirement resulted in lengthy and costly delays. This change permits the use of wire or rope guardrails provided that they meet the standard that is described in the WorkSafeBC Standard – Guardrails using rope or other non-rigid material – with no prior specific approval.

## **PART 8: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIMB AND BODY PROTECTION (8.21(2))**

**Provides new, clear standards to replace an obsolete process and standard.**

The change accepts the standards of the American Society for Testing Materials, the International Standards Organization and the European Committee for Standardization.

The change also provides employers with access to a wider range of acceptable products.

## **PART 9: CONFINED SPACES (9.18)**

The change provides greater clarity with respect to how to safeguard against harmful substances in adjacent piping within a confined space. It describes the use of blanks and blinds to disconnect or isolate the piping that contains the harmful substance. The changes clarify the requirements of acceptable isolation methods that do not require approval from WorkSafeBC.

*NOTE:*

*"blank"* means a solid plate installed through the cross-section of a pipe, usually at a flanged connection;

*"blanking or blinding"* means the absolute closure of adjacent piping, by fastening across its bore a solid plate or cap that completely covers the bore

**and** that is capable of withstanding the maximum pressure of the adjacent piping;

*"double block and bleed"* means the closure of adjacent piping by locking out a drain or vent in the open position in the line between 2 locked out valves in the closed position

### **PART 13: LADDERS, SCAFFOLDS AND TEMPORARY WORK PLATFORMS (13.32)**

The change deletes the requirement for WorkSafeBC to give prior permission before of a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform can be used. This old requirement for WorkSafeBC approval often took weeks to obtain and was cumbersome.

With the change, a swing stage, boatswain's chair or portable powered platform can be used when it has been designed or certified by a professional engineer. This provides a safe and more cost efficient way of permitting the use of this equipment.

### **PART 19: Electrical Safety (19.24)**

The change would add a new provision for alternative minimum clearances for vehicles travelling under high voltage energized lines. The provision would apply when no other work is being done by, on or from the vehicle. The issue arises because vehicle load heights or equipment heights for vehicles that travel on industrial or resource roads often are higher than that permitted on public roads.

The change was requested by BC Hydro and supported by COCA.