

Council of Construction Associations
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Grant McMillan, President

COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #505 March 22, 2011

Grant McMillan Available to Speak on Critical Experience Rating Issue

WorkSafeBC has announced that it will review the Experience Rating system for the Construction Industry. The consultation period will end on April 30, 2011.

This is an issue of critical importance to our industry.

ER varies the base assessment rate that the individual employer pays. The rate increases or decreases from the base rate according to the employer's claim costs.

ER does not measure safety. It is not the number of claims that is counted, but only the cost of all of the employer's claims.

The Construction Industry has a maximum merit rate of 33.3% and a maximum demerit rate of 33.3%. There is strong pressure from the WorkSafeBC administration to move the Construction Industry to the maximum merit of 50% and a maximum of 100%.

The COCA Directors strongly believe that the 33/33 levels should be made permanent. Our industry has a highly transient workforce that moves from project to project; soft tissue injuries are very difficult to diagnose and to manage; the recent recession has dramatically increased the duration of claims and created major financial challenges.

To help your members understand the importance of this issue, COCA President Grant McMillan is available to speak at your member meetings. Grant can be contacted at the above telephone number and email address.