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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #522 November 17, 2011

COCA Successful in Changing WorkSafeBC Regulation

A WorkSafeBC Regulation that caused confusion and difficulty for contractors has been changed.

Following a series of meetings and consultations, including WorkSafeBC's formal, public Regulation Review process, COCA has succeeded in changing the Regulation that controls the retrieval of traffic cones.

The change will be effective on February 1, 2012.

The Regulation that will be changed states that:

“Rear mounted footboards or platforms must not be occupied if the mobile equipment is backing up.” (16(31)[3].

COCA lobbied for the change to this Regulation and demonstrated that the safest and most practical way of recovering traffic cones is for the truck to back up on the freeway while the workers recover the traffic cones.

The safest option for this process is the use of a rear-facing work platform. The platform is usually affixed to the rear of a pickup or one-ton truck. The worker places the cones from this platform while the truck moves forward on the highway or freeway.

When it is time to collect the traffic cones, the process is reversed. In this mode, the truck backs up on the highway or freeway while the worker on the rear platform collects the cones.

The truck with the workers is protected by the line of cones that taper towards the construction zone. This practical method avoids the high risk

involved of having to turn the truck around after recovering the cones. The other alternative of travelling in the direction of the traffic and removing the cones exposes the workers to a far greater hazard from high-speed traffic.

Mike Pelletier, Manager, Loss Prevention & Safety, for Emil Anderson Construction, Inc., and long time COCA Director, brought this issue to COCA and worked hard to help bring about this positive change.

A pdf of the new Regulation is enclosed.

The new traffic control Regulation (Part 16.31 Mobile Equipment) can also be viewed at:

http://worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/public_hearings/assets/pdf/2011AmendmentsOHRSPart16TrafficCones.pdf