

EHS Headlines

June 2001

Placing Clients First in Environment, Health and Safety

Bill 34 Close to Becoming Law

Last month *Bill 34, an Act to increase OHS Penalties and Contraventions*, was introduced. At this point in time, Bill 34 has been passed through the Standing Committee and has been sent to Third Reading. This is the last hurdle before the amendment is given Royal Assent and is made into law.

To recap, Bill 34 proposes to increase the maximum penalty for a person found in contravention of the Act or Regulations to \$100,000 and/or up to 24 months in jail, and the maximum penalty for a corporation to \$1,000,000.

In addition to Bill 34, two other bills of note have received First Reading. *Bill 70, an Act with respect to acts of workplace violence*, received First Reading on June 5, 2001. Introduced by an MPP from Sudbury, this Act proposes to introduce additional employer's duties to develop a code of conduct, strategies, and progressive disciplinary measures with respect to workplace violence. Supervisors and workers are also given the additional duty of reporting all acts of workplace violence that they know. This Act also requires psychological assessments to be conducted where a report has been made against another worker, or (at the employer's request) a worker ceases to be a worker.

Bill 78, an Act to protect workers from sexual harassment in the workplace, received First Reading on June 7, 2001. Similarly, this Act increases the employer's duties to protect specifically against workplace-related sexual harassment. Such protection includes the development of a policy and procedure, providing workers the right to refuse work in certain circumstances, the investigation of allegations of workplace-related sexual harassment, and steps to prevent further occurrences of workplace-related sexual harassment.

For more information on these Bills, visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's website at : <http://gateway.ontla.on.ca/index.htm>

Compliance Corner : PHSR

A recent PHSR conducted for one of our clients installing a flammable liquids dispensing room required juggling to meet the requirements of the *Industrial Establishments Regulation*, the *Ontario Fire Code*, and the *Environmental Protection Act*. Section 22 of the *Industrial Establishments Regulation* requires a flammable liquid dispensing area to be equipped with mechanical ventilation to the outdoors. Where an emission into the air involves an objectionable odour, such as in flammable liquids mixed with strong scents, vapours being removed cannot be discharged directly into the air. In this case, our client had to seek permission from the local Fire Marshall to direct such air through an air cleaning device prior to discharging. To ensure that emergency situations, such as a container spill is adequately ventilated (to maintain the concentration of flammables below 25% of the lower explosive limit), a second high volume ventilation system was also installed.



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Upcoming Courses

Joint Health & Safety Committee Member Courses :

Basic Certification

July 4 & 5 -- London
July 17 & 18 -- Ottawa
July 18 & 19 -- Toronto
July 24 & 25 -- Kingston
August 8 & 9 -- Toronto
August 15 & 16 -- London
August 22 & 23 -- Kitchener-
Waterloo
September 5 & 6 -- Toronto
September 12 & 13 -- Hamilton
September 19 & 20 -- Toronto

Part 2 Certification – Health Care:

July 11 & 12 – Toronto
July 25 & 26 – London
August 8 & 9 – Kingston
August 15 & 16 – Toronto
September 18 & 19 – London
October 17 & 18 – Toronto

Part 2 Certification – Office Environment

July 10 – London
July 24 – Toronto
July 26 – Ottawa
August 7 – Kingston
August 14 – Toronto

Contractor Project Safety Mgmt:
July 30 & 31 – Toronto
August 13 & 14 – London

**OHS for Managers and Supervisors
– the “Competent Person” Course:**
September 10 & 11 – Toronto
November 19 & 20 -- Toronto

Machine and Process Safeguarding
August 21 – Kitchener-Waterloo
October 23 -- Kitchener-Waterloo

**Environmental Protection Regs in
Ontario:**
August 1 – Toronto
October 26 – Toronto

Pre-start Health and Safety Review
August 20 – Kitchener-Waterloo
October 22 – Kitchener-Waterloo

**Workplace Chemical Safety Regs in
Ontario:**
September 14 – Toronto
November 9 -- Toronto

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