

WorkSafeBC Regulatory Updates

April 3, 2017

New requirements for joint committee annual evaluation, training for joint committee members and workers health and safety representatives, and participation in incident investigations

On April 3 2017, WorkSafeBC enacted regulatory changes aimed at enhancing the functions of joint health and safety committees and increasing hands-on worker involvement in workplace safety. New Sections 3.26, 3.27 and 3.28 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* apply to the activities of nearly all joint occupational health and safety committees / worker health and safety representatives.

Section 3.26 requires that employers evaluate their joint committees annually, and cites several criteria those evaluations must address, including the overall effectiveness of the committee, and several others. The employer, the joint committee or a third party hired by the employer can conduct those evaluations. The joint committee must provide input to the evaluation, and participate in the review and discussion of the evaluation report.

Section 3.27 clarifies training requirements. It explains that joint committee members must receive at least eight (8) hours of training within six (6) months of becoming a member of the committee. Worker health and safety representatives must now receive four (4) hours of training and instruction within six (6) months of being selected. Section 3.27 also identifies the topics such training and instruction must include.

Section 3.28 prescribes further incident investigation activities in which the employer or their representative and the worker representative(s) should participate. In addition to reviewing the incident scene and providing advice to persons carrying out the investigation (as per Part 174 of the *Workers Compensation Act*), Section 3.28 explains those individuals should also assist by gathering and analyzing information relating to the investigation, and help with identifying corrective actions necessary to prevent similar incidents.

To learn more about these changes and the associated Guidelines, [click here](#).