

Regulatory Amendments Come in Force

New Requirements To Improve Construction Health and Safety

NEWS

July 1, 2016

Certain amendments to the [Construction Projects](#), the [Noise](#), and the [Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents](#) Regulations under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) come in to force on July 1, 2016.

The amendments include:

- Introducing new [technical and operational safety requirements](#) for the safe operation of drill rigs, including new training requirements for rig operators;
- Extending noise protection to all workplaces covered under the Act, including construction projects;
- Requiring employers to take appropriate safety measures to ensure construction workers are protected from hazardous concentrations of biological and chemical substances;
- Enhancing and clarifying provisions relating to exposure to carbon monoxide, and other fumes and gases, released from internal combustion engines for workers on construction projects; and
- Enhancing and clarifying provisions relating to the use of portable ladders.

These changes build on actions that the province is already taking to improve safety for construction workers including the [Working at Heights Training](#) requirements and the development of [Ontario's Construction Health and Safety Action Plan](#).

Improving health and safety in the construction industry is part of the government's plan to build Ontario up. The four-part plan includes investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives, and building a secure retirement savings plan.

QUOTES

“To break the cycle of fatalities in our construction sector, we need higher health and safety standards. Ontario is taking the lead on this by strengthening training requirements for drill rig operators and protecting workers from hazardous substances to improve workplace safety on construction projects.”

- Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour

“The number of fatalities in our construction industry is still far too high. Workplace health and safety is a shared responsibility. All workplace parties must act in unison to ensure that all workers go home safe and sound at the end of their shift.”

- George Gritziotis, Chief Prevention Officer

QUICK FACTS

- In 2015, there were 17 fatalities and 162 critical injuries reported for the construction sector.
- Falls continue to be the number one cause of critical injuries and traumatic fatalities of workers at construction sites.

LEARN MORE

Learn about the Ministry of Labour's [2015-2016 Construction Sector Plan](#)

Craig MacBride, Minister's Office, 416-326-7709
Janet Deline, Communications Branch, 416-326-7405

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