



The Employers' Adviser

Editor: Ken Henry email: khenry@eao-bc.org

Volume 10 Spring 2006

A quarterly newsletter of the Employers' Advisers Office, Compensation Advisory Services, Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services, Government of British Columbia. The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and training on all aspects of Workers' Compensation.

Please forward this to the individual managing your WCB issues.

EAB Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao **Related Websites:** www.labour.gov.bc.ca www.worksafebc.com

For further information on the Employers' Advisers Branch or to subscribe/unsubscribe to this newsletter call **1-800-925-2233**

WorkSafeBC Announces New Penalties



WorkSafeBC has altered the penalties for employers who do not report their payroll and for employers who do not make their payments as required. Deepak Kothary, Assessment and Audit Director, stated "the old \$25 minimum penalty structure had been in place for 36 years and no longer covered the costs of penalty administration". The new assessment penalty structure is outlined below. To avoid these penalties, report your payroll and make your payments on time.

Employers Who Don't Report Payroll

Annual Assessment	Penalty Amt
Tier 1 - \$0-5,999	\$50
Tier 2 - \$6000-19,999.99	\$150
Tier 3 - \$20,000-199,999.99	\$500
Tier 4 - \$200,000 +	\$1000

Employers Who Do Not Make Their Payments

Quarter Assessment	Penalty Amt
Tier 1 - \$0-1,499.99	\$50
Tier 2 - \$1500-4999.99	\$150
Tier 3 - \$5000-9,999.99	\$500
Tier 4 - \$10,000-49,999.99	\$1000
Tier 5 - \$50,000-99,999.99	\$3000
Tier 6 - \$100,000 +	\$10,000

WCB Assistance is a Phone Call Away

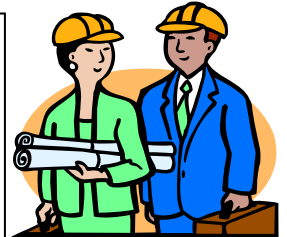
Staffed with WCB specialists, the Employers' Advisers are ready to assist employers in all areas of Workers' Compensation:

- Claims
- Appeals
- Assessments
- Occupational Health & Safety



For assistance, advice, education (seminars) and representation where there is merit at no cost to employers, call an office near you at the toll-free numbers listed below.

Joint Committees & Worker Health & Safety Representatives - When Do You Need Them?



Section 125 of the WC Act stipulates that an employer must establish and maintain a joint health and safety committee in each workplace where 20 or more workers of the employer are regularly employed or in any other workplace for which a joint committee is required by order of WorkSafeBC.

Section 139 of the WC Act stipulates a worker health and safety representative is required in each workplace where there are more than 9 but fewer than 20 workers or in any other workplace for which a representative is required by order of WorkSafeBC.

WorkSafeBC's emergency and accident line:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **1-888-621-SAFE (7233)**
After hours (Richmond) toll-free **1-866-WCB-HELP (922-4357)**

Handy Internet Link – Suggested Guidelines for a Written Safety Program Outline for the Logging Industry

http://www2.worksafebc.com/pdfs/forestry/safety_program_outline.pdf

Logging operations are inherently high risk operations and require a Safety Program. The above internet link offers a good sample of what such a program can look like.

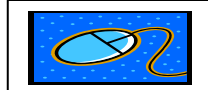
Occupational Health & Safety Programs as outlined in Section 3.3 of the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health & Safety Regulation must be initiated and maintained by each employer having a workforce of 20 or more workers in a workplace determined to be not low risk under section 3.16(2)(b) or in a workforce of 50 or more workers in a workplace determined to be low risk under section 3.16(2)(b).

For more information, check out the Guidelines for Part 3 at:

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart3.asp>

Our Website gets a new look!

Visit us at: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao



Locations: Abbotsford 1-866-870-5492 - Kamloops 1-866-301-6688 - Kelowna 1-866-855-7575 - Nanaimo 1-866-827-2277 - Nelson 1-877-877-5524 - Prince George 1-888-608-8882 - Richmond 1-800-925-2233 - Victoria 1-800-663-8783