

MARCH 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

New Brunswick

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanitation & Housekeeping

Apr 3: WorkSafeNB will end [public comments](#) on [proposed changes](#) to OHS regulations governing eating area sanitation and the minimum number of toilets required at workplaces. Employers will also have to furnish at least one wash basin or equivalent hand cleaning facility in a room with one or two toilets or urinals and an additional wash basin or equivalent hand cleaning facility in the room for each two additional toilets or urinals.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a [Sanitation and Toilets Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site

Hazardous Substances

Apr 3: That's the deadline for [comments](#) on [proposed OHS changes](#) requiring emergency eyewash stations and showers to meet ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2009, or a standard offering equivalent or better protection," rather than ANSI Z358.1-1990, which is the standard under current rules.

Action Point: Use the OHSI template to implement an [Emergency Showers and Eyewash Policy](#) at your workplace

Noise Protection

Apr 3: That's the final day to submit [comments](#) on [proposed changes](#) requiring New Brunswick employers to establish a hearing conservation code of practice, in consultation with the JHSC in a work area where noise exposure is above the levels specified in Sec. 30 of the [OHS General Regulations](#). The new rules also require hearing tests for exposed workers.

Action Point: Use the OHSI [noise control and hearing conservation program template](#) to protect your workers from hazardous noise exposure

Radiation

Feb 7: WorkSafeNB proposed changes to OHS regulations requiring that laser equipment in non-medical industries be used and operated in accordance with 1 of 5 ANSI standards, or standards offering at least equivalent protection: (a) ANSI Z136.1-2007; (b) ANSI Z136.4-2005; (c) ANSI Z136.5-2020; (d) ANSI Z136.6-2005; or (e) ANSI Z136.7-2008. In medical industries, operation and use of laser equipment must meet either CSA-C22.2 No. 60601-2-22-01 (R2005) or CSA Z386:20, or a standard offering equivalent or better protection. Deadline to comment: April 3.

Action Point: Find out about [the 7 steps required to protect workers from radiation hazards](#)

Respiratory Protection

Apr 3: WorkSafeNB wrapped up consultations on [proposed OHS changes](#) requiring employers to establish and implement a code of practice concerning respiratory protective equipment for each place of employment where use of respiratory protective equipment is required listing among other things a description of the potential respiratory hazards and respiratory protective equipment required to control them, as well as requirements for training and proper selection, care, use, maintenance and fitting of respiratory protective equipment.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a compliant [respiratory protection policy](#) at your workplace

Fall Protection

Feb 23: The jury completed its coroner's inquest into a fatality to a worker at the Belledune Generating Station. Recommendations: i. Appoint a competent person to inspect the positioning of anchors before any project begins; ii. Announce all confined space entries to ensure everyone in the workplace are informed; iii. Ensure

direct and regular verbal communication among all persons assigned to the same project and radio communication if the distance is too great to see or hear the persons concerned.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a legally sound [Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site

Industry Challenges

Apr 3: WorkSafeNB ended public [comments](#) on [proposed](#) OHS regulatory changes to beef up protections for workers that carry out demolition operations, including new requirements affecting structural integrity, hazardous substances, glass removal, disconnecting utilities and protection against falling debris.

New Laws

Feb 23: The federal government announced that it will provide over \$740,000 in funding to the Saint John Newcomers Centre for initiatives designed to make it easier for refugees, racialized immigrants and other disadvantaged immigrants in New Brunswick to access legal support and services.

Confined Spaces

Feb 29: WorkSafeNB issued new [guidelines](#) to help employers comply with OHS confined space training requirements for Entry Supervisors, Attendants, Air Supply System Attendants, Entrants, Emergency Response Team Leaders and Rescue Team Members.

Mental Stress

Feb 16: After receiving hundreds of comments during public consultations, WorkSafeNB says it plans to go forward with its proposal to make a confirmed diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder for a correctional officer a condition that's presumed to be work-related for purposes of workers comp coverage.

CASES

Machine Safety: Manufacturer Fined \$100,000 for Calender Roller Fatality

New Brunswick fined an iron and metal manufacturer \$100,000 for not informing a worker of the hazards of a calender roll, a device used to finish or smooth sheets of

metal, paper, textiles, rubber, plastics or other materials, resulting in a fatality
[*American Iron & Metal Company Inc.*, February 14, 2024].