

JULY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Manitoba

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Injuries

May 9: Manitoba's 2022 time loss injury rate rose from 2.7 to 2.9 per 100 workers. Other key year-over-year WCB [2022 Annual Report](#) findings: Total injury claims increased from 24,003 to 25,632 while time loss claims grew from 12,974 to 14,391. The estimated 3,321 severe injuries were just 8 above 2021 levels. Fatalities fell from 20 to 16 and average days lost to workplace injury dipped from 1.64 to 1.59.

OHS Enforcement

May 14: Since April 1, 2023, Manitoba has carried out 632 WSH inspections, resulting in the issuance of 39 Stop Work Orders and 1,456 Improvement Orders. There were also 2 reported OHS work refusals and 2 alleged reprisals.

Action Point: Implement an [OHS inspections policy](#) in case inspectors show up at your door

Transportation Safety

May 30: Newly passed [Bill 21](#) amends the *Highway Traffic Act* to make it easier to crack down on "chameleon carriers," or motor-carrier businesses that close down and reopen later to avoid safety regulations. Manitoba carriers will have to get a safety fitness certificate by, among other things, designating a compliance officer and submitting a safety plan.

Housekeeping & Hygiene

May 30: Newly passed [Bill 227](#) amending the *WSH Act* to require owners of a

workplace to ensure delivery personnel access to washroom facilities has taken effect. The only exceptions are where access would require going through a dwelling or the owner can show that granting access would constitute an undue hardship or danger.

Action Point: Take [5 steps](#) to ensure compliance with OHS personal hygiene requirements

Accessibility

May 24: Accessibility Standards Canada and the Manitoba Department of Families signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together and coordinate their efforts toward achieving accessibility.

Action Point: [Find out more](#) about how accessibility requirements affect your OHS program

Workplace Violence

May 30: Manitoba passed [Bill 16](#) amending the *Domestic Violence and Stalking Act* to require persons applying for a prevention order or protection order to disclose any existing orders or agreements between the parties dealing with parenting arrangements, custody, contact, access or guardianship.

Action Point: Implement an effective [domestic violence prevention and response policy](#) at your workplace

Transportation Safety

May 30: Newly passed [Bill 8](#) requires persons who register snow mobiles and other off-road vehicles to pay a new \$25 fee.

Privacy

May 30: Royal Assent for [Bill 27](#), which will make it easier for victims whose intimate images are published without consent to collect money damages by establishing the presumption that published images were nonconsensual. The accused will then have the burden of proving that they had reasonable grounds to believe that the accuser did consent to the publication.

Action Point: Find out how [privacy laws affect workplace safety](#)

Workers Comp

May 30: Legislation, [Bill 25](#), extending the presumption that specific heart injuries and cancers suffered by firefighters are work-related for purposes of workers comp to wildfire firefighters, has received Royal Assent.

CASES

Material Handling: Steel Erector Fined \$45,000 for Pallet Jack Injury

Workers using a pallet jack and telehandler to erect a steel column failed to secure the load. As a result, the column fell and injured one of the worker's feet. The employer was fined \$45,000 after pleading guilty to ensure that workers and supervisors were aware of the hazards they might encounter on the job [*McDougall Steel Erectors Inc.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), May 19, 2023].

Action Point: Use the resources on the OHSI Material Handling [Compliance Center](#) to avoid similar injuries at your workplace.