

AUGUST 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Manitoba

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHS Enforcement

Jun 25: Since April 1, 2023, Manitoba has carried out 1,401 WSH inspections, resulting in the issuance of 90 Stop Work Orders and 3,036 Improvement Orders. There were also 2 reported OHS work refusals and 7 alleged reprisals.

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

New Laws

Jul 7: After extensive consultations with industry, Manitoba announced that it will adopt the 2020 versions of the National Research Council's national model codes for building, plumbing, fire and energy. The [changes](#) will officially take effect on Jan. 1, 2024, to give businesses a chance to prepare.

Transportation Safety

Jul 1: New *Highway Traffic Act* fines for driving on a road that's been closed to traffic took effect: i. \$298 for driving a car, SUV, pick-up truck or other light vehicle on a closed road; ii. \$672 for directing an employee or other person to drive a light vehicle on a closed road; iii. \$672 for driving a heavy vehicle on a closed road; and iv. \$1,296 for directing a person to drive a heavy vehicle on a closed road.

Workers Comp

Jun 1: The Manitoba WCB issued [Update 04-23](#) revising its guidelines and policies for disclosing the various kinds of personal information and protected health

information about injured workers it collects in administering the workers comp program.

Environmental

Jun 9: Manitoba launched a task force to explore construction, renovation and demolition waste diversion in an attempt to minimize how much of these materials end up in the province's landfills.

CASES

Electrical Safety: Arc Flash Leads to Severe Burns and \$65,000 Fine

Manitoba Hydro was fined \$65,000 after a power line technician suffered second degree burns while removing fiberglass arms on a concrete hydro pole. It wouldn't have happened had the crew de-energized hydro lines carrying 7,200 volts that caused the arc flash [*Manitoba Hydro*, [Govt. Press Release](#), June 16, 2023].

Action Point: Implement a legally sound [electrical safety compliance plan](#) at your workplace

Machine Guarding: Employer Fined \$20,000 for Failing to Guard Moving Parts of Machine

A coil winder operator reached over the shaft of the machine while it was adjusting a roller. The worker's clothing got caught in the machine and suffered serious injuries, including bone fractures and the partial amputation of 2 fingers. The employer was fined \$20,000 after pleading guilty to failing to ensure that the machine was safeguarded to prevent the worker from coming into contact with its moving parts [*Carte International Inc.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), June 16, 2023].

Action Point: Use the [OHSI machine guarding policy template](#) to prevent similar injuries at your workplace