

JANUARY 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

# Saskatchewan

## **LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **New Laws**

Jan 1: The [2020 versions of the national construction codes](#) officially took effect in Saskatchewan (including the National Building Code of Canada (NBC), National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) and National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC)). Key changes: i. consolidation of the 4 climate zones into a single zone; ii. establishment of energy efficiency tiers for building construction; iii. clarification of carbon monoxide and smoke alarm requirements; and iv. requirement of backwater valves to prevent sewer buildup in buildings.

### **New Laws**

Dec 19: Saskatchewan is expanding the list of drugs that pharmacists may prescribe for patients to include medications for treating nausea and vomiting during pregnancy and recurrent genital herpes for both men and women.

### **Workers Comp**

Jan 1: 2024 workers comp rates: i. Minimum Average Weekly Earnings: \$776.57; ii. Minimum Compensation to injured worker: \$582.43 per week; iii. Maximum Assessable Wage: \$99,945; iv. Maximum Wage Rate: \$70,209 for injuries before Jan. 1, 2014, and \$99,945 for injuries on or after Jan. 1, 2014.

### **Workers Comp**

Feb 28: That's the last day for Saskatchewan employers to file their Employer's Payroll Statement (EPS) listing their actual payroll expenses in 2023 and estimated

payroll expenses for 2024.

## **CASES**

### **Fall Protection: Fertilizer Company Fined \$200,000 for Not Guarding Floor Opening**

Saskatchewan's final OHS fine of 2023 was its second highest of the year, \$200,000, trailing only the \$250,000 fine imposed on [Align Energy Services](#) in July. The recipient was a fertilizer producer that pled guilty to failing to ensure that a floor hole opening was covered with a securely installed covering capable of supporting 360 kilograms per square metre and posting an adequate warning sign stemming from an incident in which a worker suffered serious injuries after stepping into an unguarded floor opening [*Nutrien Ltd.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), January 3, 2024].

**Action Point:** Find out how to implement a Compliance [Game Plan](#) to prevent falls through openings at your workplace

### **Machine Guarding: Lack of Auger Machine Guard Costs Company \$46,000**

A farming equipment supply company worker sustained serious injuries after stepping onto an energized auger. The victim's employer was fined \$46,000 after pleading guilty to failing to ensure that a guard was in place to prevent a worker from making contact with a moving machine part [*Agrow Canada Ltd.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), December 28, 2023].

**Action Point:** Use the [OHSI Machine Guarding Policy template](#) to prevent similar tragedies at your workplace