

Manitoba

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emergency Response

Jul 10: Manitoba declared a provincewide state of emergency for the second time this year. Wildfires have already consumed more than 10 times the number of hectares in 2025, as compared to an average fire season. The latest state of emergency will remain in effect for 30 days unless the government extends it.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a [Wildfire Smoke Protection Game Plan](#) to guard your workers against smoke exposure, both indoors and outdoors.

Work Injuries

Jun 23: Manitoba's 2024 time loss injury rate was 2.6 per 100 full time workers, the same as last year. There were 13,918 time loss injuries, versus 13,604 in 2023. Severe injury rates decreased to 0.54 but days lost to injury increased from 1.55 to 1.66 per full time worker. There were 22 fatalities, one fewer than 2023.

OHS Enforcement

Jun 29: Since April 1, 2025, Manitoba has carried out 1,845 WSH inspections, resulting in the issuance of 152 Stop Work Orders and 3,731 Individual Improvement Orders. There were also 3 reported OHS work refusals and 23 alleged reprisals.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an [OHS inspections policy](#) in case inspectors show up at your door.

New Laws

Jul 14: Manitoba announced that it plans to invest more than \$189 million for highway rehabilitation, bridge repairs, culvert replacements, and other infrastructure improvements in the western part of the province. The 18 projects include a bituminous rehabilitation on Provincial Trunk Highway.

Emergency Response

Jun 12: Manitoba announced that it will defer provincial tax payments for businesses affected by the recent wildfires. Businesses may request a penalty and interest waiver when they're reasonably able to file and pay their retail sales tax, health, and post-secondary education tax levy and other provincially administered tax returns after the impacts of the wildfires subside.

CASES

Machine Safety: Old Machines Not Exempt from New Guarding Requirements

A government inspector issued an improvement order (IO) against a small manufacturing company for not having machine guards meeting CSA Z432-16

standards on a milling machine. The company appealed, contending that the guards met the standards that were in effect at the time it bought the machine in 2007, 9 years before the adoption of CSA Z432-16. But the Manitoba Labour Board upheld the IO. The requirement (in Section 16.5(2) of the *WSH Regulations*) that machine guards meet CSA Z432-16 doesn't include a "grandfather" clause for older machines, reasoned the Board. It applies to all machines regardless of age [[*Prairie Welding Ltd v Director, Workplace Safety and Health*](#), 2025 CanLII 62127 (MB LB), May 20, 2025].

Action Point: Find out how to prevent these kinds of violations by implementing a legally sound [Machine Guarding Compliance Game Plan at](#) your workplace.