



*Don Nelson,
Industry Services Manager, Construction
Workers' Compensation Board*

New WCB online registration service available

You wouldn't operate heavy equipment without insurance. Why would you risk running a business without it? If you're an employer – in construction or any other industry – and have people working for you, you need to register your firm with the Workers' Compensation Board. It's the law, it's common sense, and it's in your best interest. When you register, you are protected by workplace insurance. That means you can't be sued if a worker is injured on the job site. If you're not registered and there's an accident, however, you could be charged the total compensation costs of the injury plus retroactive insurance premiums.

The right choice is clear. And now, thanks to a new Internet tool, it's also easy.

In March, the WCB launched Employer Self-Serve Registration, an online application that gives employers access to coverage at their convenience – 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

An enhancement to the WCB's existing online registration service, the Internet application is available to employers who operate as a partnership, proprietorship, or limited company, providing they are registering for the first time the Board and have a valid Canada Customs and Revenue Agency Business Number.

The application guides employers through a series of computer screens to register and classify their firm online. In most cases, this takes just 20 to 30 minutes. Within one business day of completing a registration (three days if it's more complex), the employer is e-mailed a WCB account number. An information package follows by mail.

Employer Self-Serve Registration is one of several online services now available to employers through the WCB web site. In an effort to make it easier for employers to work with the Board, employers can use the Internet to request clearance letters and forms, to lodge incident and injury reports, to check the status of claims, or to estimate their experience rating. And there are more online products on the horizon, including online payroll and reporting and annual rate notification.

For more information about registration and other services available on the WCB web site, visit www.worksafebc.com.

Accident alert issued on preventing caught-in-machinery accidents

There have been several recent incidents resulting in serious crushing injuries or fatalities when servicing mobile equipment. Almost always, these types of incidents can be prevented. If servicing mobile equipment takes place at your workplace, please review these resources and regulations and share them with your staff.

To prevent accidents when servicing mobile equipment, adequately block the elevated parts of mobile equipment during maintenance. Chock vehicle wheels to prevent the vehicle rolling off the hoist, and make sure the hoist provides adequate support to the vehicle.

In response to comments received about our construction Notice of Accidents, sent to subscribers by e-mail, the WCB recently issued an accident alert concerning caught-in-machinery accidents. We welcome all your comments on accident alerts that are designed to link recent incidents with hazard alerts and sections of the Regulation.

For more information on preventing injuries in construction, visit our Construction Health and Safety Centre at <http://construction.healthandsafetycentre.org>.

SEND US YOUR IDEAS AND QUESTIONS

I would like to include your ideas and questions in future columns. Send your ideas for future columns to me at dnelson@wcb.bc.ca or call me at (604) 231-8631 or toll free in B.C. at 1 888 621-7233.