

Re: Manufacturing Health & Safety Association

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) and WorkSafeBC are looking for your support for a new Manufacturing Safety Association. The mandate of the proposed Safety Association would be to promote safety and reduce injury-related costs to employers in the manufacturing industry.

Industry health and safety associations work to improve safety in a wide variety of sectors. For example, B.C.'s Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA) has been very effective in working with their member companies and WorkSafeBC to create safer workplaces; FARSHA has helped the farm and ranch industry reduce injuries by 45 percent in the past decade, which corresponds to avoiding approximately \$25 million in claims costs.

There is considerable opportunity to reduce costs in the manufacturing sector. Currently, this sector has accident rates approximately 60% above the provincial average. There are 3 ways to reduce injury-related claims and thereby reduce costs:

- COR certification, eligible to receive a 15% rebate on WorkSafeBC annual base rate
- Improved company safety performance, thereby reducing the WorkSafeBC premiums for a specific company
- Improved sector safety performance, thereby reducing the base rate for the classification unit

The Manufacturing Safety Association would apply to become a Certifying Partner for British Columbia's Certificate of Recognition Program (COR). The COR Program is a voluntary program for employers in B.C. that will lead to a significant change in the safety culture of the industry. Employers that implement comprehensive management systems in occupational health and safety and return-to-work that meet the requirements of the COR Program will be eligible for a rebate up to 15% of their WorkSafeBC base assessment. The successful implementation of management systems for both occupational health and safety and return to work programs will result in a positive change in business and safety cultures in the manufacturing industry over time.

COR is available to employers in several other provinces across Canada; it has been operating in Alberta since 1994. In 2004, Alberta employers with COR certification experienced total claims cost approximately 24% lower than non-certified employers. Similar results are anticipated for the manufacturing industry in British Columbia.

As health and safety performance improves, firms will see a decline in their individual assessment rates. These individual successes will ultimately lead to a drop in base assessment rates for the manufacturing industry; this is when most organizations will experience a significant reduction in their WorkSafeBC premiums. The financial rewards are considerable. Most importantly, workplace injuries will be reduced.

The Manufacturing Safety Association will be funded by a levy placed on employers in the manufacturing industry. The levy will be reasonable, approximately three cents per \$100 of assessable payroll.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters BC  
688 W. Hastings, Suite 540  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1P1  
Telephone: 604-713-7800  
[www.cme-mec.ca/bc](http://www.cme-mec.ca/bc)

WorkSafeBC  
Mike Pearson  
Industry Specialist Manufacturing Sector  
Telephone: 604 279 7640  
[makeitsafe@worksafebc.com](mailto:makeitsafe@worksafebc.com)

If you support the development of a Safety Council for the manufacturing industry, please complete the information below and send it to:

**Letter**

WorkSafeBC  
Attn: Mike Pearson -Industry Specialist  
Industry and Labor Services  
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal  
Vancouver BC  
V6B 5L5

**Fax**

Attn: Mike Pearson  
604 214-5499

**E-mail**

Attn: Mike Pearson  
[makeitsafe@worksafebc.com](mailto:makeitsafe@worksafebc.com)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Business Name

Place your business card or company logo here



**Craig Williams**  
Vice-President, BC Division  
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters  
688 W. Hastings, Suite 540  
Vancouver BC V6B 1P1  
t: 604-713-7804  
f: 604-713-7801  
[craig.williams@cme-mec.ca](mailto:craig.williams@cme-mec.ca)  
[www.cme-mec.ca](http://www.cme-mec.ca)



**Terri Holizki, Q.C.**  
Industry Services Manager  
Industry Labour Services – Manufacturing  
WorkSafeBC  
6951 Westminster Highway  
Richmond BC  
Phone  
Phone: 604 233-4044  
Fax 604 279-7494  
[Terri.holizki@worksafebc.com](mailto:Terri.holizki@worksafebc.com)  
[www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)