

Resources

WorkSafeBC offers many services and information to help both employers and workers maintain a safe workplace. They also have resource for specific industries such as restaurants, construction, health care and many more.

The following publications are available in online at www.worksafebc.com as well as in print from www.worksafebcstore.com

For Employers:

- Small Business Primer: A Guide to WorkSafeBC (also available in Chinese from S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)
- Effective Health and Safety Programs
- 3 Steps to Effective Worker Education and Training

For Workers:

- Managing your WorkSafeBC claim
- Benefits and Services: a handbook for workers

General:

- Safety on the Job is Everyone's Business
- H&S for Retail Small Business
- H&S for Hospitality Small Business

Contact Information

For free impartial information, you can call either the Employers or Workers Advisers. They have offices through the province. These advisers do not work for WorkSafeBC and are set up by the government to help you deal with WorkSafeBC issues.

Employers Advisers
(www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao/)
1 800 925-2233

Workers Advisers
(www.labour.gov.bc.ca/wab/)
1 800 663-4261

WorkSafeBC
Visit their website at Worksafebc.com

Or call:

- General questions 604 273-2266
- Health and safety questions 604 276-3100 or 1 888 621-7233
- Claims questions 604 231-8888 or 1 888 967-5377
- Employers registration and payment questions 604-244-6181 or 1 888 922-2768



This pamphlet has been prepared by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. in partnership with WorkSafeBC and:

- MOSAIC (Multilingual Orientation Service for Immigrant Communities)
- ISS (Immigrant Services Society of BC)
- PICS (Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society)

You can contact S.U.C.C.E.S.S. at:
28 W. Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1R6
(www.success.bc.ca)
(604) 684-1628



Safety at Work in BC For New Canadians

Depending on the country that you are from, the laws around health and safety in the workplace may be very different from what you are used to. In BC, the *Workers Compensation Act (WCA)* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHS Regulation)* ensures that all workers have the right to work in a safe and health workplace and that they receive fair benefits if they are injured at work.

The Workers' Compensation Board of BC (operating as WorkSafeBC) is an agency created by the government to manage workplace health and safety in BC. This organization provides compensation to injured workers and helps them return to work. It also works with employers to help make workplaces safe. This system is funded by employers through the insurance premiums they pay to WorkSafeBC. In return, a worker cannot sue their employer for an injury at work.

If you start a business in BC

(For Employers)

Like many other insurance systems, WorkSafeBC insurance protects employers in the event of an accident. If there is an accident at your workplace, the medical and wage-lost costs for your workers are covered by your WorkSafeBC premiums. The only difference with this insurance is that most businesses in BC are required by law to register. Generally you must register if you:

- employ and pay workers on a regular, casual, or contract basis
- hire someone to work in or around your home for a certain period of time (e.g. babysitting, lawn services)
- come from another province or country to do work in BC
- work in the commercial fishing or trucking industries

If you are self-employed, you can register for Personal Optional Protection (POP).

To find if you need to register:

- Visit Worsafebc.com and under “Insurance” click “Register for coverage”, then click “who needs to register”.
- Call the Employer Service Centre at 604-244-6181 in the Lower Mainland or 1 888 922-2768 toll-free.

Note: employers are not allowed to deduct the cost of this insurance from workers wages in any way.

Employer Responsibilities

Whether your business is big or small, the law requires you to make sure your place of business is a safe and healthy place to work.

As a business owner you need to:

- identify hazards in your workplace and inform workers of any dangers in your workplace
- regularly check your workplace to make sure everything is working properly
- train and show workers how to do their work safely and supervise them to make sure they understand
- report injuries that require medical attention to WorkSafeBC
- investigate accidents where workers were injured or equipment damaged
- fix problems that have been reported to you by your workers
- record activities such as training for workers, discussions about safety concerns and if you have provided first aid.

For more information about your responsibilities as an employer visit



www.worksafebcstore.com and obtain a free copy of the “Small Business Primer”.

If you start a job in BC

(For Workers)

Most people working in BC are covered and protected if they are injured at work, even if their employer has failed to register with WorkSafeBC. Individuals who are self-employed, partners or proprietors are not automatically covered but can apply for Personal Optional Protection.

Work related injury costs that are covered include:

- medical costs
- wages and salary if you are unable to work due to your injury
- rehabilitation costs to help you get better and return to work

Worker Rights

As a worker, you have the right to:

- work in safe workplace
- be told if the work you are doing may be dangerous
- refuse work that is unsafe in certain situations

For more information about your rights, call 604-276-3100 in the Lower Mainland or 1 888 621-7233 in BC.

Workers Responsibilities

As a worker you need to:

- follow safety rules
- ask for help if you are unsure or do not know how to do something
- tell your boss if you see something that is dangerous
- tell your boss if you have been injured

If you are injured at work

Call 604-231-8888 or 1 888 967-5377.

By law, your employer must report any workplace injury or disease to WorkSafeBC. It is against the law for your employer to tell you, ask your or try to talk you out of reporting an injury.

At the time you are injured, if you need an ambulance or transportation from your workplace to your doctor’s office or the hospital, your employer is required to pay those costs.



For more information about making a claim, visit www.worksafebcstore.com and obtain a free copy of “Managing your WorkSafeBC Claim”.

If you are hiring another business or self-employed person to work around your home of for your business, check to make sure they are registered with WorkSafeBC. If they are not, you may be required to provide coverage for them. A “clearance letter” from the WorkSafeBC will tell you if they are registered. These letters are free of charge and can be obtained from www.worksafebc.com by selecting “clearance letter” or by calling 604-244-6180, toll-free 1 888-922-2768.

