

Liaison Bulletin No. 71

December 2007

Human Resources and Social Development Canada - Labour Program,
Program Development and Guidance Directorate
Occupational Health and Safety Operations and Compliance Unit, and
Occupational Health and Safety Policy Unit

Regulations Amending the *Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*

The regulations were approved on November 29, 2007, and appear in the December 12, 2007, edition of the [Canada Gazette Part II](#) (see volume 141, no 25, pages 2445 to 2452).

The regulations came into force on the day on which they were registered for final publication in Part II of the *Canada Gazette*.

The Hazard Prevention Program that forms Part XIX of the *Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* (COHS Regulations) was amended to include provisions for ergonomics-related hazards. The amendments are made pursuant to Part II of the *Canada Labour Code*, the purpose of which is to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with, or occurring in the course of employment in the federal jurisdiction.

The impetus for the amendments came from the provisions in Part II of the Code, requiring federally-regulated employers to take the prescribed steps to prevent and protect against ergonomics-related hazards in the work place. These provisions were part of amendments made to Part II of the Code under Bill (C-12), which came into force on September 30, 2000.

The intention of creating a working group to discuss regulatory provisions relating to ergonomics was announced at the Labour Program Regulatory Review Committee meeting of May 22, 2002. Later in 2002, the tripartite working group was established comprised of employer, employee and government representatives who examined various alternatives to address workplace ergonomics, including regulatory and non-regulatory options.

The amendments to the Hazard Prevention Program include requirements for the employer to incorporate ergonomics-related hazards in the program. This would mean conducting hazard identification and assessment, developing preventive measures and employee education on ergonomics.

Based on the data sets from the national musculoskeletal incidence reporting from all jurisdictions in Canada and the incidence for select employers under federal jurisdiction located in British Columbia, it is estimated that musculoskeletal injuries constitute approximately 30% of all work-related injuries in federally-regulated workplaces. The incidence of injury suggests a need for workplace ergonomics regulations in an effort to reduce this risk.

For further information, please contact: Jacinta Aungier, HRSDC-Labour Program at (819) 997-3815 or by e-mail at jacinta.aungier@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca

NOTICE

If you wish to be notified electronically of future publications of the *Liaison Bulletin* and the *Canada Gazette*, send your e-mail address to:
brenda.allard@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca