

### *Occupational Diving Regulations*



Diving supervisor, diver and diver's tender must meet competency requirements of CSA Standard Z275.4-02, "Competency Standard for Diving

The Occupational Diving Regulations came into effect May 1, 2006; and introduced a number of requirements for the diving occupation. These included: dive plans; diver competency; minimum dive crew size; diver logbook, supervisor records; equipment examination, testing and maintenance; diver certificate of fitness/medical and SCUBA prohibitions

The regulations apply to all occupational diving including: industrial/commercial; seafood harvesting (sea urchin and aquaculture operations) etc. Only recreational diving and diving with a snorkel are excluded from the regulations.

A minimum crew of three must be present at each diving operation and must include at least two divers and one team member who acts as both a supervisor and a diver's tender. Crew requirements change according to depth, equipment usage, and degree of hazard and other conditions. Additionally, all members of a dive team must hold a valid standard first aid certificate before a dive is conducted.

Before any diving can take place, a written dive plan must be developed in consultation with the dive team for the dive. Items to be included in the dive plan are: a description of the work; time of the dive; emergency procedures; dive tables to be used; instructions for getting medical assistance.

If you are hiring a dive business there are a number of responsibilities placed on you as well. For further information see [Hiring Divers: The Basics](#).

### *Apprenticeship System Review*

A review of the Apprenticeship system is underway and public consultation sessions will be held throughout the province from January 9 to 19, 2012.

A discussion paper has been prepared and is available for review

through the following links:

[English;](#)

[French](#)

Responses to the paper must be received by January 20, 2012 and may be submitted in a number of ways.

For additional information on how to submit your comments/responses please go to: [Apprenticeship Review](#)

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### **Upcoming Events:**

- ◆ Public Consultation Meetings Apprenticeship System Review. January 9-12, 2012. Province wide.
- ◆ 4th Annual Construction Industry Briefing. February 6, 2012. Dartmouth Holiday Inn.
- ◆ Safety Services NS Annual Safety Conference. March 28-30, 2012. Westin Hotel, Halifax.

### **This Issue:**

<i>Occupational Diving</i>	1
<i>Apprenticeship Review</i>	1
<i>Construction Industry Briefing</i>	2
<i>FYI step stools</i>	3
<i>Recent Incidents</i>	3
<i>Common Orders</i>	4

### *Apprenticeship Review (continued)*

Public Consultation Locations and times are:

- Monday Jan. 9. NSCC Lunenburg Campus, Bridgewater. Room C112A.
- Tuesday Jan. 10. NSCC Burrigge Campus, Yarmouth. Room B174.
- Thursday Jan. 12. NSCC Akerley Campus, Dartmouth. Room A255.
- Monday Jan. 16. NSCC Marconi Campus, Sydney. Room A147
- Tuesday Jan. 17. NSCC Strait Area Campus, Port Hawkesbury. Room 208.
- Wednesday Jan. 18. NSCC Pictou Campus, Stellarton. Room C210.
- Thursday Jan. 19. NSCC Truro Campus, Truro. Room 229 Forrester Hall.
- Wednesday Jan. 11. NSCC Annapolis Valley Campus, Middleton. Room 252.

If you would like further information contact the Apprenticeship Training Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education at:

424-5651 or ,

toll free 1-800-494-5651



### *4th Annual Construction Industry Briefing*

The Construction Association of Nova Scotia and the Department of Labour and Advanced Education are pleased to once again organize this annual briefing.

The briefing provides an update on the regulations governing building and energy systems, construction and maintenance and operations; and will be of interest to business owners, contractors, facility and building owners/operators, property owners/managers, designers, equipment suppliers, maintenance personnel and unions.

This is an all day event with 8 sessions covering such topics as:

- Technical Safety Act—status report, elevators and lifts, electrical;
- Workplace Health and

Safety— Administrative Penalties update, regulatory update, Threads of Life presentation;

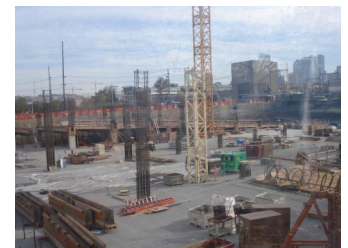
- New Contract Procurement Guidelines;
- Workers Compensation Board—new proposed rate setting model;
- Labour Market Statistics;
- Jobs Here Strategy and Continuing Education;
- IRAP Funding and DTAP;
- Construction Demolition Incentives and Future.

Registration Fees:

\$100 (+ HST) Early Bird until January 20

\$150 (+HST) after January 20.

A 75% refund will be provided for cancellations prior to January 25th.



Registration forms are available for download at:

[Construction Association of Nova Scotia](#) or

[NS Construction Portal](#)

## FYI—CSA Approved Stepstools

There appears to be some confusion on whether CSA approved step stools are available .

It would seem some of the confusion stems from the use of the term step stool. Step stools that have steps or rungs, typically one or two steps that fold under a platform or seat, are referred to as step



Typical Step stool / step ladder covered by CSA Standard definition

ladders or platform ladders. These are available as CSA certified; for example, a recent retail store sales flyer advertised CSA Grade 2 step ladders which fit the above description.

If you use step stool in the workplace that is a cylinder with no steps - simply a top platform - this is outside of the scope of the standard; i.e. it is not covered by the Standard and so would not be CSA certified. In that case you need to ensure it was safe and appropriate for the type of work you were going to use it for.

Ladders and step ladders requirements are noted in Sections 147 to 152 of the Occupational Safety General Regulations which references the CSA Standard Z11-M81.



Typical cylinder style step stool—not covered by CSA Standard definition

Note: the regulatory requirements for ladders and step ladders in the workplace is that they need to be either CSA Grade 1 or 2. A CSA Grade 3 is a “household” ladder and is not to be used in a workplace.

## Recent Incidents

### Slips and Trips

- An employee was injured when they tripped on an area carpet that was not laying flat on the floor
- An employee slipped on a water spill and injured their knee . The employee was engaged in a work activity and had not seen the spill
- An employee assembling cabinets for a display tripped when stepping backwards onto a parts box. Injuries were sustained when the employee fell against another display

### Arc Flash

- An electrician was burned

while repairing a switch near an energized electrical panel with the door open. The Occupational Safety General Regulations permit testing and troubleshooting, with appropriate safe work procedures in place, on energized equipment; but working on modifying or repairing equipment while it is energized is not permitted.

### Guarding

- A contracted employee was injured while troubleshooting equipment. The person reached around a guard to free a jam, pinching their thumb between a moving arm and the

framework once the jam was freed. The Occupational Safety General Regulations require Lock-out and Tag-out procedures to be implemented.

### Forklift

- A forklift operator was slightly injured when a section of cinder block wall collapsed after an overhead beam was struck by the forklift. The operator’s view was blocked while in the process of transporting a large load to a loading dock. Section 87 of the Occupational Safety Regulations outlines the requirements for a signaler.

*While slips and trips may occur in any season, winter, with ice and snow being tracked indoors, makes it more challenging to stay on top of potential hazards.*

*Ensure entry ways where slippery conditions are more likely to exist are monitored more frequently for possible hazards.*

*Also ensure outdoor walkways are cleared, salted and sanded as needed.*

**LABOUR AND ADVANCED  
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For further information come see us on  
the Web at:

<http://gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/>

or our OHS Knowledgebase  
[Knowledgebase](#)

*Common Orders*

The following are some of the more common orders our OH&S Officers write  
for violations:

- ◆ 1st Aid certification missing or lapsed
- ◆ 1st Aid kit missing or not supplied
- ◆ Guarding on machinery missing or broken
- ◆ No fall protection
- ◆ No WHMIS training
- ◆ No JOHS committee or Health and Safety Rep

*Links to related agencies:*

- [Nova Scotia WCB](#)
- [Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal \(WCAT\)](#)
- [Workers' Advisers Program \(WAP\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance System \(WSIS\)](#)
- [Office of the Employer Advisor Nova Scotia](#)
- [Service Canada / Français](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\) / Français](#)
- [CanOSH \(Canada's National Workplace Health and Safety Website\) / Français](#)
- [CCOHS Free e-learning courses](#)