

### *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations Consultation*

A 60-day public consultation was held this summer regarding the proposed Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.

The draft regulations were made available on the Department's home page for comment. Certain sections of the draft received a high frequency of comments; including:

- Fall Protection Safe Work Procedure
- Guardrails
- Fall Arrest Systems
- Fall Protection Training Certificate or Card
- Lift Truck work platform, and
- Elevating work platforms

With regards to the proposed change of automatically updating references to standards, received comments showed that stakeholders were generally optimistic about this, but were cautious on how they would remain up to date on changes to the standards.

There were also comments/suggestions received on the content of a reference guide (companion document) for the regulations. The Department will be reviewing requirements and content of the reference guide as part of Phase 2 of the WHS Regulations project.

The Department and Division would like to thank everyone who provided input into this project. A Report on the results of the consultation is available in pdf format: ["Workplace Health and Safety Regulations– Consultation Report"](#)

### *Plan Now for Working in Cold Weather*

Summer is over and Fall is still bringing some milder temperatures; but there is no question colder weather is on its way.

For businesses that have workers working outdoors in the winter, now is the time to prepare safe work procedures.

While there are no specific 'working in cold environment' regulations; an

employer has the duty and responsibility to consider workplace hazards and eliminate or control them.

As noted one way to do this is to develop written safe work procedures, in consultation with the JOHS committee or HS rep (if present) or with employees. The procedures should list the hazards and then list preventive measure to eliminate

or control them.

If you have procedures in place then be sure everyone knows what they are and what is expected of them' also ensure they are trained in the use of any equipment noted in the procedure.

Note that if you have procedures in place you may need to review to ensure they are relevant.

### **Upcoming/ Current Events:**

- ◆ [NSCSA Construction Safety Supervisor Conference;](#)  
Nov 22

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For additional information and resources the CCOHS site; here are links to 3 of their pages dealing with cold environments:

[Working in the Cold](#)

[Cold Environments General](#)

[Health Effects and First Aid](#)

## Cross Canada Hazard Alerts

These are provided as information only. When considering preventive measures for similar hazards refer to Nova Scotia Regulatory requirements.

### British Columbia

- [Potato Harvesting Equipment](#)

The alert warns employers and workers of the hazards associated with this harvesting equipment

- [Worker Struck by Load when Articulating Boom Crane 'two-blocks'](#)

Alert highlights an accident where a worker was struck by a crane's load after the

line broke when the traveling lower block and stationary upper block made contact.

### Saskatchewan

- [Unsafe Lifting Practice](#)

The alert highlights the dangers of rigging and lifting a 'spool' of cable/wire

### Alberta

- [Explosion of Mobile Carpet Cleaning Propane-Fueled Boilers](#)

The alert highlights a explosions of propane-fueled water-heaters/boilers mounted inside mobile

carpet and upholstery cleaning vehicles.

### Manitoba

- [Abrasive Blasting](#)

The alert deals with the potential hazards to workers performing abrasive blasting; for example 'sand blasting'

- [Accidental Release of Stored Energy \(strapping/banding\)](#)

The alert highlights hazards associated with strapping/banding materials commonly used to contain products for storage or transport

### Ontario

- [Abrasive Blaster dies of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)

The alert notes the hazard associated in the use and not having proper maintenance of a compressor

### Prince Edward Island

- [Welding](#)

Highlights an accident where a worker was burned while operating a gas cutting torch

## Positive Private Sector action arising from OH&S Division Scaffold Blitz

During a June 2012, Central Region 'scaffolding blitz' (a blitz is when the Division focuses on a particular section of a regulation or possibly a particular type of workplace for a period of time) several concerns arose.

Officers found several areas of non-compliance with the most common being maximum load, fall arrest and general set-up. Officers also found that many of the scaffold users appeared to not have received any training on the scaffold being used, or have knowledge of, or received, any manufacturers' specifications when they purchased their scaffolding.

Officers followed up on this information by contacting two of the Province's largest providers of scaffolding.

Both suppliers were very helpful and contacted the manufacturer of the scaffolding they carry; thereby confirming that manufacturer specifications are not available.

Subsequent to the above visits, Mr. Bryan Getson, Multi Branch Safety Manager for Safway Services Canada Inc., contacted our Officers. Mr. Getson had heard about the visits and agreed that something was needed to 'fill' the gap of no manufacturer specifications for customers.

Mr. Getson met with the Officers and developed scaffolding guidelines/directions (which also cover the applicable sections of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations).

The document is in clear language outlining what the manufacturer requires, as well as what an OH&S Officer would be looking for.

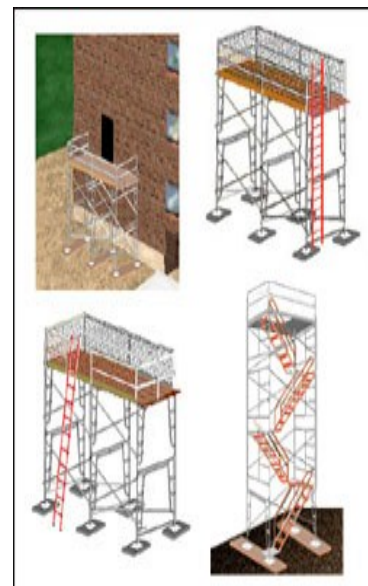
This document is being included with rental/sales agreements, including a note on the front of the agreement to remind persons to refer to the directions.

The Division would like to thank Mr. Getson (Safway Services Canada Inc.) for his proactive approach, time and effort in making it easier for employers to comply with the regulations and easier for our Officers to enforce the regulations.

The Division would encourage other suppliers/manufacturers to develop

plain language specifications to guide their clients.

Regulatory requirements for scaffolds may be found in Part III of the [Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations](#).



## *In Brief: Some Considerations for Rolling Scaffold Safety*

Rolling scaffolds are commonly used at a variety of workplaces. The ability of ‘rolling’ them into various areas of a workplace makes them particularly convenient to use. However too often these scaffold may be used inappropriately or for the wrong job, leading to potential falls and injuries.

Start by deciding whether a rolling scaffold is suitable for the task at hand. Is the ground level? Does it have adequate bearing capacity (can it withstand the weight of the scaffold, material and people)?

Is the scaffold itself in good working order? Does it have suitable braking or locking devices for the wheels? And are they working properly?

Is there appropriate horizontal

cross-bracing? And are there enough of them?

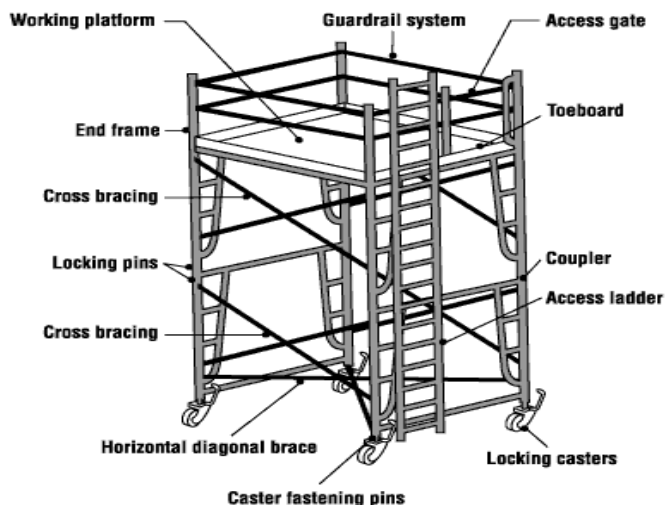
Can the components be securely fastened with locking mechanisms.

Does a competent person inspect the scaffold prior to use each day? Checking for any defects or damage?

Do workers know not to begin working on the scaffold while it is still being erected? Do workers know not to move (roll) the scaffold to a new position while there is someone on it?

Do you know if the scaffold can support at least 4 times the maximum load likely to be on it?

To see the general regulatory requirements for scaffolds as



Components of typical rolling scaffold (from CCOHS)

well as those specific to Rolling Scaffolds see Section 21 through 28 of the [Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations](#).

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety also has useful information on rolling scaffolds available at [Platforms—Rolling Scaffold](#)

## *Recent Incidents*

### *Conveyor*

A worker's hand was pulled in under a metal roller when reaching to remove an object on a conveyor. On investigation it was noted the roller and conveyors at this facility did not have guards. It was further noted the employer had: written policies and procedures for working around the conveyors, shut-down/maintenance, lock-out and clearing; and held regular tool box meetings.

### *Wood Chipper*

The chute from a wood chipper detached itself from the unit and struck and injured the worker. The cause for the chute becoming detached is unknown. Manufacturer's instructions/specifications must be followed when operating and maintaining equipment.

### *Forklift*

After a forklift operator inadvertently knocked over a box of metal while driving the forklift, a fellow worker was pinned by the metal spilling from the box. The Occupational Safety General Regulations has requirements for a 'spotter' when the travel lane is not clear, or the forklift load impacts the operator's field of vision.

### *Carrot Harvester*

A worker received cuts to their arm when they came into contact with the blades of a carrot harvester. While operating the harvester it became jammed. The machine was turned off and the workers proceeded to clear the jam. With the task nearly completed a worker crossed over the machine to restart it, thereby creating a blind spot. A guard had not been fully closed and a co-worker reached in to remove one last obstruction when the machine was restarted. Lock out procedures must also contain procedures on how to start up machinery again safely and alerting other workers near the machine that it will restart.

### *Boiler Explosion*

A small explosion occurred within a boiler while repairs were being undertaken. The Division was notified as per requirements of the Act even though there were no injuries.

**LABOUR AND ADVANCED  
EDUCATION**

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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](#)

*Reminder—Construction Industry Consultation*

If you are a builder, architect, engineer, municipal building official, or have some other interest in construction the Province is looking for your input on 24 recommendations prepared by the Building Advisory Committee.

The recommendations address 3 major areas:

- Improving the Letters of Undertaking process
- Improving compliance with the Letters of Undertaking process
- Improving building quality (a shared responsibility)

Documents of interest (all are pdf format)

are available on the Department's Homepage and are comprised of:

- [Review of Obligations under Letters of Undertaking Final Report](#)

Related Documents

- [Discussion Paper—Review of Obligations under Letters of Undertaking](#)
- [Document de travail—Examen des obligations en vertu des lettres d'engagement](#)

Comments may be submitted for consideration up to December 20, 2012 by email to Ted G Ross at:

[Rosstg@gov.ns.ca](mailto:Rosstg@gov.ns.ca)

Or if you wish to provide written submissions please send them to:

C/O  
NS Building Advisory Committee  
Labour and Advanced Education  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
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*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](#)