

New Ticketing Powers for Ministry of Labour Inspectors

The Ontario government is moving forward with its plan to cut workplace injuries by 20% over four years by expanding the powers of provincial health and safety inspectors. Labour Minister Chris Bentley announced January 20, 2005 that health and safety inspectors, previously able to issue tickets for unsafe workplace practices in construction, mining and diving, can now also issue tickets as an enforcement tool in the industrial sector.

"Health and safety is everyone's responsibility," Bentley said. "Ticketing gives our inspectors more flexibility to deal immediately with those who violate health and safety requirements in the workplace. This initiative will also discourage anyone from trying to gain an unfair advantage over law-abiding competitors by ignoring workplace health and safety."

Employers, supervisors and workers can be issued tickets for certain violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act's industrial regulations. Examples of violations include:

- Failing to wear fall protection equipment (ie: harness & lifeline)
- Failing to use a machine with adequate guarding
- Failing to ensure a lifting device is operated safely



Tickets are issued under the Provincial Offences Act and carry set fines, including court costs, of \$200 or \$300, depending on the offence. If issued a ticket, the party can choose to either pay the fine or appear in a provincial court to dispute the offence.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is generated by gasoline and propane powered engines. The fact that it is odourless, colourless, and tasteless can make it difficult for people to realize they have been exposed to the gas. According to [CHEMINFO](#), the effects of exposure can range from mild to severe headaches (50 ppm to over 200 ppm); nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fainting and drowsiness (above 400 ppm); increased heartbeat, irregular heartbeat (above 1200 ppm); loss of consciousness and death (above 2000 ppm). At concentrations greater than 5000 ppm, death may occur in minutes. These symptoms are usually seen sooner or at lower concentrations of carbon monoxide if there is a heavy workload (increased breathing rate and increased blood flow).

Employers should consider using **alternatives** to internal combustion engines inside, where possible. Where forklifts and other equipment with internal combustion engines are run inside, the facilities should have a **mechanical ventilation system** installed and maintained to control the levels of exhaust gas to an acceptable level. In addition, where propane powered forklifts are used inside a building, **regular engine tuning and emission testing** should be a part of the equipment's **routine maintenance**. The carbon monoxide **emissions should be within the maximum levels** recommended under manufacturers' standards. Employers should install **carbon monoxide monitors** throughout the work area, including adjacent office areas. It is very important that these **CO monitors be maintained** as recommended by the manufacturer. **Workers should be educated** on the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to recognize signs of poisoning.



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