

BULLIVANT & Associates Inc. – Health & Safety Newsletter

What is a Workwell Audit?

A Workwell Audit is an on-site workplace health and safety evaluation conducted by the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board.

Which Employers are chosen for a Workwell Audit?

The WSIB considers:

- The number and cost of injuries
- Compliance with First Aid requirements
- Information from the Ministry of Labour such as: number, frequency, type of order, and degree of compliance with orders issued
- Complaints or referrals from workers or other outside parties

Employers that are targeted are usually:

- Employers with high frequency and high severity of injuries
- Firms with a high lost-time accident rate in comparison to that of its rate group
- Employers with a fatality or serious injury within the previous two years

What happens after a company is targeted for a Workwell Audit?

A Workwell Evaluator will contact the firm to:

- advise of the upcoming health & safety evaluation
- set up an appointment for the evaluation
- send an information package by mail including the “Workwell Core Health & Safety Audit Document” which outlines detailed requirements for each element of the evaluation.

WORKWELL...stay tuned for MORE information in next month's newsletter

According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety... **Fluids can help prevent heat-related symptoms when working in hot environments.**

A person working in a very hot environment loses water and salt through sweat. This loss should be compensated by water and salt intake. Fluid intake should equal fluid loss. On average, about one litre of water each hour may be required to replace the fluid loss. Plenty of cool (10-15C) drinking water should be available on the job site and workers should be encouraged to drink water every 15 to 20 minutes, even if they do not feel thirsty. Drinks specifically designed to replace body fluids and electrolytes may be taken. Alcoholic drinks should NEVER be taken as alcohol dehydrates the body.

An acclimatized worker loses relatively little salt in their sweat and, therefore, the salt in the normal diet is usually sufficient to maintain the electrolyte balance in the body fluids. For un-acclimatized workers who may sweat continuously and repeatedly, additional salt in the food may be used. Salt tablets are **not** recommended because the salt does not enter the body system as fast as water or other fluids. Too much salt can cause higher body temperatures, increased thirst and nausea. Workers on salt-restricted diets should discuss the need for supplementary salt with their doctor.



Did You Know?...The McGuinty government is introducing legislation that would end mandatory retirement and provide greater fairness and choice for workers aged 65 and older, Labour Minister Chris Bentley announced June 7, 2005. “People are healthier and living longer so it is unfair to insist that they stop working simply because they turn 65,” said Bentley. “Ending mandatory retirement would allow workers to retire based on lifestyle, circumstance and priorities.”

The Ontario Human Rights Code currently does not protect people aged 65 and over from age discrimination for employment purposes. As a result, employees can be forced to retire at age 65.

Among other things, the legislation would:

- Become effective one year after it receives Royal assent
- Continue to allow mandatory retirement where it can be justified on “bona fide occupational requirement” grounds determined under the Human Rights Code (i.e. where there is a requirement or qualification necessary for the performance of essential job duties)



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