

# Health and Safety

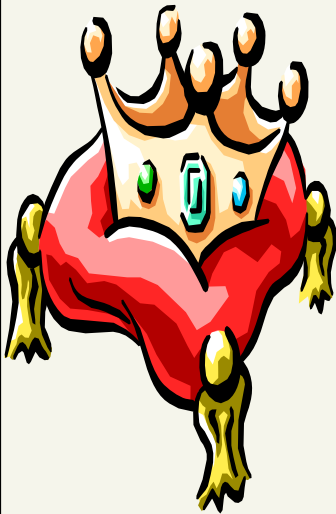


## Newsletter

Contact Us:  
 Ph: 905-664-4943  
 Fax: 905-664-2553  
 info@bullivant.ca  
 www.bullivant.ca

BULLIVANT & ASSOCIATES INC.

# Bill 168 Receives Royal Assent



Bill 168, which amends Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in respect of workplace violence and harassment, received Royal Assent on December 15, 2009.

The legislation contains domestic violence provisions and provisions requiring employers to provide workers with information related to a risk of workplace violence from people with a history of

violent behaviour. The new protections will require employers to:

- Develop and communicate workplace violence and harassment prevention policies and programs to workers
- Assess the risks of workplace violence, and take reasonable precautions to protect workers from possible domestic violence in the workplace.

- Allow workers to remove themselves from harmful situations if they have reason to believe that they are at risk of imminent danger due to workplace violence.

Amendments to Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act passed on February 8, 2010 and will go into effect on June 15, 2010.

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## Ministry of Labour Focuses on Forklift Safety

For the second year, **Ministry of Labour inspectors** will visit retailers, wholesalers, transportation and automotive companies, wood and metal fabrication plants, industrial service providers, utilities and, for the first time, mushroom farms and greenhouse operations.

The blitz is part of the **Safe at Work Ontario** strategy.

Forklifts and other lifting devices are a major cause of

serious injuries and deaths involving workers, according to **Labour Minister** Peter Fonseca:

*"The government of Ontario and its workplace partners remain committed to eliminating all workplace injuries. Workers deserve to come home to their families each day, safe and sound."*

There were more than **9,400 forklift-related incidents**, involving a lost-time injury

between 1996 and 2008, an average of **727 incidents a year**, according to the Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario.

Ministry inspectors will focus on lifting-device inspection and maintenance, **operation of lifting devices** by qualified people, and a safe work environment.

