



Industrial Sector Plan

2014-2015



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Introduction

Safe At Work Ontario is the Ministry of Labour (MOL) initiative to raise awareness about, and increase compliance with, the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations. As part of *Safe At Work Ontario*, MOL develops annual sector-specific enforcement plans that focus on hazards and outline what inspectors will be focusing on during an inspection. This Industrial Sector Plan outlines the ministry's enforcement initiatives in support of protecting Ontario's workers from occupational injury and illness in the 29 sectors and subsector plans.

Every year, the MOL holds consultations to shape and improve its occupational health and safety compliance strategy and to build closer partnerships with its stakeholders. These sessions help the MOL to continue meeting the public's needs. It is also an opportunity for the MOL to learn from our partners, obtain feedback on how the program is working, increase support for new directions and identify areas for improvement.

The 2014-15 Industrial Sector Plan describes sector-specific hazards and compliance issues, and the MOL's enforcement focus for inspections within the industrial sectors. The Plan also acknowledges recent changes to Ontario's [OHSA](#) and the Industrial Regulation (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 851) that will have an impact on occupational health and safety, workplace parties and the ministry's enforcement practices.

Please refer to the [e-Laws website](#) to download a copy of the OHSA and its regulations.

This sector plan contains a brief description of some of the main topics that an inspector may address in the workplace. While each workplace is unique, and the circumstances presented to an inspector may result in a different inspection focus, this sector plan provides a general overview of the MOL's focus. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the plan and share copies of it with others in your workplace. [Sector plans](#) for other MOL programs may be downloaded.

Ontario provides a toll-free number to report workplace health and safety incidents or unsafe work practices. Call the MOL at 1-877-202-0008 to:

- Report critical injuries, fatalities, work refusals anytime
- Workplace health and safety information, weekdays 8:30am – 5:00pm
- Emergency? Always call 911 immediately

Note: This document does not constitute legal advice. To determine your rights and obligations under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) and its regulations, please contact your legal counsel or refer to the legislation at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

The Industrial Program

The sectors in which the Industrial Health and Safety Program (IHSP) enforces the OHSA and the associated regulations are diverse and complex. Sectors range from fisheries and

education to wood and metal fabrication. The majority of workers at provincially regulated workplaces in Ontario are part of the industrial sector.

In most industrial sectors, the Industrial Establishments Regulation, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 851 under the OHSA (the “Industrial Regulation”), applies and provides specific regulatory requirements or guidance to the workplace parties. In some sectors, where there is no sector specific regulation, coverage is extended under the OHSA whereby every precaution reasonable in the circumstances is taken to protect workers from hazards in their workplace.

A new regulation will require [health and safety awareness training](#) for every worker and supervisor under Ontario’s [OHSA](#). The regulation comes into force July 1, 2014.

On farming operations, the Industrial Regulation does not apply. O. Reg. 414/05 – Farming Operations, sets out which provisions of the OHSA and other regulations apply to the farming sector.

Owing to the nature of work in the industrial sectors, it is possible that, for some activities, the regulations respecting the mining sector, Mines and Mining Plants, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 854, or the construction sector, Construction Projects, O. Reg. 213/91 may apply at workplaces that are otherwise governed by the Industrial Regulation. For example, in some industrial locations the Construction Projects Regulation may apply during certain construction activity and once completed, the Industrial Regulation will apply. Workplace parties are also reminded that there are several hazard-based regulations that may apply in the workplace and may impose requirements beyond those of the sector-specific regulations.

Please refer to the [e-Laws website](#) to view or download a copy of the [OHSA](#) and its regulations.

Industrial enforcement statistics

MOL inspectors enforce the OHSA and its regulations at workplaces across the province. As part of the *Safe At Work Ontario* strategy, they focus on specific industry sectors where there are high injury rates, history of non-compliance, and certain workplace hazards.

The ministry maintains a database where inspectors record their workplace visits, inspections, consultations, investigations and orders issued. Fatalities, critical injuries, complaints, work refusals and other incidents reported to the ministry are also recorded.

The IHSP analyzes this data when planning for enforcement initiatives and blitzes such as those outlined in this sector plan. Details of the IHSP activities and events and injuries for past three fiscal years are presented in the tables below.

Industrial program activities

Program activities	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Proactive visits ^[1]	21,779	19,700	16,649
Workplace inspections	21,360	19,315	16,376
Workplace consultations	419	385	273
Workplace investigations ^[2]	17,159	17,820	18,006
Orders issued	65,744	63,200	54,944

Industrial events and injuries

Events and injuries	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Complaints	6,873	6,329	6,796
Work refusals	115	157	114
Fatalities ³	23	26	43
Critical injuries ⁴	690	823	820
Other incidents	2,984	2,844	2,652

Priorities

System priorities

On December 16, 2013, the MOL released its first Integrated Occupational Health and Safety Strategy designed to guide the efforts of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), the Health and Safety Associations (HSAs) and MOL enforcement staff.

¹ Proactive visits are those made under the *Safe At Work Ontario* strategy, and include inspections and consultations.

² Investigations are reactive workplace visits, which include investigations of complaints, work refusals, fatalities, critical injuries and other incidents.

³ Fatalities (and critical injury events) include only those that have been reported to the Ministry. A MOL jurisdiction fatal injury includes an injury or incident resulting in the death of a worker. This excludes death from natural causes, death of a non-worker at a workplace, suicides, death under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Code, Highway Traffic Act and Canada Labour Code and death from occupational exposures that occurred many years ago.

⁴ Critical injury events in the Ministry's data systems may include non-workers, as this is required to be reported. The critical injury numbers represent critical injuries as reported to the Ministry and may not necessarily represent critical injuries as defined by the OHSA.

As outlined in this document, *Safe At Work Ontario* has been refocused to align with the priorities as set out in the [Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy](#) as well as deliver on the overall goals.

The priorities set out in the Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy are outlined below:

1. Assist the most vulnerable workers
2. Support occupational health and safety improvements in small business
3. Address the highest hazards that result in occupational injuries, illnesses or diseases
4. Build collaborative partnerships
5. Integrated service delivery and system wide planning
6. Promote a culture of health and safety

In support of the Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy, below is a brief overview of 2014-15 priorities for inspectors visiting industrial establishments.

Enforcement initiatives

Enforcement initiatives are part of the province's *Safe At Work Ontario* compliance strategy. They may be announced to the sector in advance although individual workplaces are not identified in advance. Results from province-wide initiatives are posted on the ministry's website. The initiatives raise awareness of workplace hazards and promote compliance with the OHSA and its safety regulations.

Inspectors' findings may influence the frequency and level of future inspections of individual workplaces. Inspectors may also refer employers to health and safety associations for compliance assistance and training.

New business registrations and Internal Responsibility System initiative

The IHSP will conduct a new small business registration and Internal Responsibility System (IRS) initiative throughout 2014-15.

Rationale

Small businesses present unique challenges to the effective and efficient implementation of occupational health and safety in the workplace. In Ontario, small businesses represent 95 per cent of all employers and they employ 28 per cent of Ontario's workers, many of whom are vulnerable workers. Small business has been identified as a priority in the Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy.

Recognizing the unique challenges and needs of small and new businesses, inspectors will continue to actively engage these employers to check that they are aware of the IRS requirements and familiar with the support materials prepared by the MOL and the compliance assistance available through the relevant HSA. The initiative supports vulnerable workers by increasing awareness of their occupational health and safety rights and access to resources such as the MOL Health and Safety Contact Centre and MOL publications.

Enforcement focus

In addition to reviewing the IRS as part of all workplace field visits, a year-long initiative to promote and enforce the IRS specifically aimed at new workplaces will be undertaken. To address the concepts and requirements of the IRS, MOL inspectors will proactively inspect small businesses that have registered with the WSIB but have not had prior contact with the MOL. In addition to the physical inspection of the workplace, inspectors will focus on whether the requirements respecting the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive IRS are being met. If necessary, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

Sector focus

Small businesses are commonly found in most industrial sectors. The subsectors that will be the focus of this initiative are:

- Automotive
- Construction Premises
- Food, Beverage and Tobacco
- Industrial Services
- Retail, Restaurants
- Vehicle Sales and Service
- Wholesale
- Wood and Metal Fabrication

Inspectors are not limited by these, however, and can register new and small businesses in other Industrial subsectors.

Resources/compliance support

Ontario Ministry of Labour

Guides

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\): A Guide to the Legislation](#)

Tools

- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [How to Prepare an Occupational Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Developing Workplace Violence and Harassment Policies and Programs: A Toolbox](#)
- [Pains & Strains in the Workplace Tool](#)

Hazard alerts

Videos

WSPS

Small business

- [Small business guides — 6 steps to a safer future](#)
- [Small business - resources](#)

Regional initiatives

Each MOL regional office will be conducting its own regionally focused initiative to raise awareness and help address issues that are specific to a geographic area or where there is a higher incidence of issues than the rest of the province.

The table below outlines the region, initiative, focus and duration of initiatives from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Region	Name of Initiative	Focus	Date
Central East Region	Food Distribution Centres	Inspectors will check for driver certification/ training, equipment certification and safe material handling.	Spring 2014
	Industrial Plazas	Under Development	Spring 2014 to Fall 2014
Central West Region	Amusement Devices	Safe erection and takedown of the event and rides (joint visits with Industrial and construction) at temporary, travelling carnivals and amusement parks.	July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014
	Farming	IRS, compliance, and vulnerable workers, such as migrant and temporary workers, in the sector.	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015
Northern Region	Sawmill, mechanical /conventional logging and hauling	Silvicultural activities - operations such as tree plantation thinning using brush saws, manual/mechanical seed collection, ground and aerial spray applications and site preparation; Tree planting operations; and Inspecting base camps of operations.	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

Region	Name of Initiative	Focus	Date
	Remote access workplaces within the Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality subsector	Employer to ensure that workers are properly trained and supervised, hazards are being addressed, equipment is being properly maintained and that personal protective equipment is being used as required.	June 23, 2014 to September 9, 2014
Western Region	Farming Operations	Education and outreach Begin proactive inspections	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015
	Field to Bottle (Wineries)	Expand both employment standards and OHS proactive inspections to the Pelee Island and Prince Edward County wine areas, Re-inspection of all Niagara wineries	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015
	Seeds to Blooms (Green Housing)	Partnership building, Education and outreach to employers	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015
	Small Manufacturers	Partnership building, Education and outreach to employers	April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

Inspection blitzes

MOL inspectors enforce the OHSA and its regulations at workplaces across the province. As part of the *Safe At Work Ontario* strategy, they focus on specific industry sectors where there are high injury rates, chronic violators, and workplace hazards. They will also continue to ensure overall compliance with the OHSA and its regulations. Inspectors are not limited to the issues identified in this document as major hazards or key health and safety issues, and will take enforcement action appropriate for the conditions at each workplace inspected.

Note: Injury and illness trends: The program uses WSIB data to identify injury and illness trends. Trend analyses of the number of fatalities, critical injuries, lost-time injuries (LTIs), LTI rates and the costs associated with WSIB claims for each sector are used by inspectors to plan their inspections of projects. Hazards inherent in the work and compliance history are other selection criteria. When reviewing occupational injury and illness data available to MOL inspectors at the individual firm level, inspectors check that workplace parties comply with the OHSA and its regulations, while encouraging workplaces to establish and enhance appropriate measures and procedures and best practices for maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. During their workplace visits to enforce the OHSA and its regulations, inspectors also consider hazards that contribute to the root cause of injuries.

The MOL Industrial Sector Plan is based on *Safe At Work Ontario*, the MOL's compliance strategy for occupational health and safety. Through proactive enforcement, *Safe At Work Ontario* provides a modern, flexible, compliance-based program.

In addition to their general inspection duties, Industrial inspectors will conduct four province-wide, blitz campaigns in 2014-15.

Month, Year	Enforcement campaign/blitz topic	Key Points
May to August 2014	New and young worker	Evaluate the Internal Responsibility System Training and orientation, supervision, Minimum age Personal protective equipment Policy and procedures
September 15 to October 26, 2014	Material handling	Safe movement of materials into and out of the workplace The use of cranes and lifting devices, and mobile

Month, Year	Enforcement campaign/blitz topic	Key Points
		material handling equipment Musculoskeletal disease hazards
November 3 – December 14, 2014	Machine guarding	Inspections will be done to check that industrial employers are protecting the health and safety of workers from hazards that may arise from working with machinery. The use of lockout procedures to prevent access to moving parts Exposure to waste product dusts, solvents, etc.
February 2 – March 15, 2015	Slips, trips and falls	Falls Lifting devices Ladders MSDs hazards Safe Work Practices Personal protective equipment

Tips on how to prepare for a blitz inspection

Before the inspector's visit

- Check your accident experience in relation to the blitz topic
- Review the sections of the Act and regulations that may apply based on the focus of the blitz campaign
- Determine whether you are currently meeting or exceeding the minimum legal requirements in those areas
- Consult with [Health and Safety Ontario](#) for specific information and services that may help you prepare
- Review the blitz-related material prepared by the MOL
- Discuss compliance strategies with your Joint Health and Safety Committee and Health and Safety Representative

During the visit

- Ensure all required documentation is available to the ministry inspector
- Ensure the supervisor and health and safety representative are available
- Ensure the workplace parties co-operate with the ministry inspector

What the inspector will verify

- compliance with the [OHSA](#) and its regulations
- health and safety programs and policies relative to the blitz topic
- Internal Responsibility System – self reliance
- training requirements and any deficiencies
- record of injuries, including blitz-associated issues
- Workplace specific hazards related to the blitz awareness campaign

Note: Inspectors can legally enter a project or workplace at any time without warrant or prior notice (OHSA section 54(1)(a)). An inspector will identify himself/herself by means of ministry identification. No person shall hinder, obstruct, molest or interfere with or attempt to hinder, obstruct, molest or interfere with an inspector in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this Act or the regulations or in the execution of a warrant issued under this Act or the Provincial Offences Act with respect to a matter under this Act or the regulations.

New and young worker blitz

Date: May 1 to August 31, 2014

Type: Industrial

In May to August 2014, the inspectors will focus on new workers and young workers.

Rationale

Why focus on new and young worker?

The Institute for Work and Health has identified that any new worker, of any age on the job is up to 3 times more likely to be injured during that month than any other time performing that job. That applies to anytime a worker is “new” to the work they are performing – even if it is a new job with the same employer.

Targeted

The first group comprises young workers, age 14 to 24. The second group is new workers of any age above 25 who have been on the job less than six months or who have been reassigned to a new job in the last six months.

MOL Industrial inspectors will place special emphasis on new and young worker safety but not limited to the following sectors: service, transportation, municipalities, farming operations, logging, hotels, motels, landscaping and arborist.

Blitz focus

Inspectors will focus on the following key priorities:

Training, orientation and supervision: The Inspectors will check to verify that employers have completed basic mandatory supervisor and worker awareness training, orientation and WHMIS training are in place, also, that supervision is provided.

Internal Responsibility System: The inspectors will check and evaluate the Internal Responsibility System (IRS) check if the Health and Safety Representatives or Joint Health and Safety Committees are in place where appropriate and that they are functioning as required under the OHSA. They will also check to see if the minimum requirements as set by the OHSA are carried out such as workplace inspections.

Policies and programs: Inspectors will check that employers have policies and programs in place to protect workers from workplace violence and harassment.

Minimum age requirements: Employers must ensure that the workplace meets the minimum age requirements for the industrial establishments.

Safe work practices: Inspectors will check that employers have safe work practices which including assessing any hazards such as machine guarding and lockout. They will also check for policies and procedures that ensure an investigation takes place into all related incidents.

Same-level slips and trips: Inspectors will check that employers ensure that floors and other surfaces are kept free of obstructions, hazards (such as oily or greasy floors) and accumulations of refuse, snow or ice. Special attention will be paid to walkways, aisles and other areas where there is pedestrian traffic.

Falls from ladders, mobile stands and platforms: Inspectors will check that employers ensure that workers work in a safe manner on ladders, stands and platforms. They will also check that ladders, stands and platforms have been properly assessed for hazards, properly designed, built and maintained and placed on firm footing.

Ergonomics: Inspectors will check that employers ensure that workers are performing tasks and interacting with their workplace in a manner that prevents ergonomic injuries.

Falls from heights: Inspectors will check that employers use fall arrest equipment and/or guardrails or other safety equipment is being used for work on platforms, raised floors, mezzanines, balconies when workers are working at heights.

Personal protective equipment and safety devices: Employer must ensure that personal protective equipment is being properly selected, used and maintained for tasks. Inspectors will also check on the availability, adequacy and condition of this equipment.

Resources/compliance support

Ontario Ministry of Labour

- [Young Workers](#)
- [Young workers on the job](#)
- [Parenting young workers](#)

Guides

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\): A Guide to the Legislation](#)

Tools

- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [How to Prepare an Occupational Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Storage and Material Handling](#)

- [Pains & Strains in the Workplace Tool](#)
- [Workplace Violence and Harassment](#)
- [Information Resources about Reprisals](#)

Hazard alerts

Videos

- [Workplace Violence and Harassment](#)

Health and safety partners

The ministry works closely with its partners to protect worker's health and safety on the job.

Material handling blitz

Date: September 15 to October 26, 2014

Type: Industrial provincial

From September 15 to October 26, 2014 the inspectors will focus on the material handling in industrial subsectors.

Rationale

Why focus on material handling?

Inspectors will check that industrial employers are protecting the health and safety of workers from hazards that may arise from material handling.

Targeted

MOL Industrial inspectors will place special emphasis on, but not be limited to, the following sectors: ceramics glass stone, chemical rubber plastics, wood and metal fabrication, automotive, construction premises, building supply centres, food beverage tobacco, pulp and paper textiles and printing.

Blitz focus

Inspectors will focus on the following key priorities:

Cranes and other lifting devices – Inspectors will check that when employers use cranes and other lifting devices at the workplace (including associated hardware and rigging equipment) that the cranes are rated for their tasks and are maintained in good condition.

Workplace layout/design – Inspectors will be verifying that employers are providing safe and appropriate access and egress to work areas and workers/pedestrians are not endangered by mobile equipment or the movement of materials at the workplace.

Manual handling procedures – Inspectors will check the employer has ensured that when workers are performing tasks and interacting with their workplace, they are doing so in a manner that prevents musculoskeletal injury and the risk of slips, trips and/or falls.

Mobile/transport equipment – Inspectors will check that the employers has ensured that the equipment is appropriate for use, maintained in good condition, and that safe practices are being followed (e.g., safe load securement procedures and workplace traffic management plans).

Storage systems – Inspectors will be checking that employers ensure materials are placed or stored in a manner that will not endanger a worker, and that they can be removed or withdrawn without endangering the safety of a worker. This will include a focus on bulk, rack, and, automated or unitizing/palletizing equipment processes/practices.

Internal Responsibility System (IRS) focus – The inspectors will check and evaluate the Internal Responsibility System to see if the Health and Safety Representatives or Joint Health and Safety Committees are in place where appropriate and that they are functioning as required under the OHSA.

Worker training – Inspectors will check that employers are providing information and instruction to workers to perform assigned tasks.

Workplace supervision – Inspectors will verify that the employer is providing supervision to ensure compliance with the OHSA.

Resources/compliance support

Ontario Ministry of Labour

Guides

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\): A Guide to the Legislation](#)

Guideline

- [Guidelines for Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews](#)

Tools

- [Storage and Material Handling](#)
- [Lifting Equipment](#)
- [Mobile Equipment](#)
- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [Musculoskeletal Disorders / Ergonomics](#)
- [Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders \(MSDs\) at Industrial Workplaces](#)
- [Prevent Workplace Pains & Strains! It's time to take action!](#)
- [Pains & Strains in the Workplace Tool](#)

Hazard alerts

Videos

Health and safety partners

The ministry works closely with its partners to protect worker's health and safety on the job.

Machine guarding blitz

Date: November 3 to December 14, 2014

Type: Industrial provincial

From November 3 to December 14, 2014, inspectors from the industrial program will visit workplaces to enforce the OHSA and its regulations with regards to machine guarding and lockout.

Rationale

Why focus on machine guarding?

This blitz is being conducted to check that industrial employers are protecting the health and safety of workers from hazards that may arise from direct and/or indirect exposure and access points to moving parts of machinery.

Targeted

MOL Industrial inspectors will place special emphasis on, but not be limited to, the following sectors: wood and metal fabrication, manufacturing, chemical and plastics, automotive, sawmills, food beverage tobacco pulp and paper and textiles and printing.

Blitz focus

Inspectors will focus on the following key priorities:

Guarding: Inspectors will check that employers have ensured that pinch points and other hazardous locations on equipment have guarding devices. Guarding is typically required in locations where there are moving parts, in-running nip hazards or pinch points, such as power transmission interfaces and shear points.

Locking and blocking: Inspectors will check that employers are ensuring that workers are following lockout procedures to prevent machines from starting when they are opened or when guarding devices are removed. Ideally, equipment should be designed so repairs and maintenance are conducted without having to reach into dangerous spots and without the need to remove guards and other protective devices. Lockout procedures typically involve bringing the machine to a complete stop and disconnecting all its power sources. Blocking is an extra step that must be carried out to prevent the equipment from moving if there could be residual energy that has not been dissipated.

Musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) prevention: Inspectors will check that employers have taken adequate measure to address potential MSD hazards associated with guarding ergonomics such as, increased awkward postures and/or forces required to perform the required duties due to the installation of a guard, and forces and/or awkward postures required to install and remove guards.

Internal Responsibility System (IRS) focus: Inspectors will check and evaluate the IRS to see if the Health and Safety Representatives or Joint Health and Safety Committees are in place where appropriate and that they are functioning as required under the OHSA. They will also check that the minimum requirements as set by the OHSA are carried out such as workplace inspections.

Occupational disease: Inspectors will check that employers have taken adequate measures to protect workers from exposure to chemicals that could cause an occupational disease. An occupational disease due to chemicals is a condition that results from a worker exposed to a chemical agent to the extent that normal physiological mechanisms are affected and the health of a worker is impaired. It includes an occupational disease for which a worker is entitled under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act 1997.

A focus will be given to metalworking fluids and degreasing solvents. Metalworking fluids comprise a range of oils and other liquids that are used to cool and lubricate metal work pieces when they are being machined, ground, milled, etc. Workers can be exposed to metalworking fluids during application through skin contact or inhalation.

Solvent degreasing is a process to prepare a part for further operations such as electroplating and painting. Typically it uses petroleum- or alcohol-based solvents to dissolve the machining fluids and other contaminants on the part. Exposure can occur through skin contact and inhalation.

Policies and programs: Inspectors will check that employers have policies and programs in place to protect workers from hazards in the workplace. Programs elements of a policy could include some of the following, worker training on chemicals (especially metalworking fluids and degreasing solvents), machine guarding and lockout.

Resources/compliance support

Ontario Ministry of Labour

Guides

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\): A Guide to the Legislation](#)

Guideline

- [Guidelines for Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews](#)

Tools

- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [Workplace Violence and Harassment](#)
- [Storage and Material Handling](#)
- [Musculoskeletal Disorders / Ergonomics](#)
- [Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders \(MSDs\) at Industrial Workplaces](#)
- [Prevent Workplace Pains & Strains! It's time to take action!](#)
- [Pains & Strains in the Workplace Tool](#)

Hazard alerts

Videos

Health and safety partners

The ministry works closely with its partners to protect worker's health and safety on the job.

Slips, trips and falls blitz

Date: February 2 to March 15, 2015

Type: Industrial provincial

From February 2 to March 15, 2015 inspectors from the industrial program will enforce the OHSA and its regulations with regards to slips, trips and falls at workplaces.

Rationale

Why focus on slips, trips and falls?

Inspections will be conducted to ensure that industrial employers are protecting the health and safety of workers from hazards that may arise from slips, trips and falls when working in the industrial environment. Slip, trip and fall hazards tend to be a leading cause of injury in the Industrial sector. In 2013, there were 13 fatalities related to slip, trip and falls.

Targeted

MOL Industrial inspectors will place special emphasis but not limited to the following sectors: restaurants, retail, food, beverage and tobacco product industries, vehicle sales and service, and wood and metal fabrication.

Blitz focus

Inspectors will focus on the following key priorities:

Policies and programs: Inspectors will check that employers have policies and programs in place to protect workers from slips, trips and falls. This includes protecting workers from falls from heights and slipping or tripping at the workplace.

Access and egress: Inspectors will also check that employers are providing appropriate access and egress to work areas and ensuring ladder safety. They will also check that the employer has emergency rescue procedures for workers who fall or whose fall arrest equipment is activated.

Safe work practices: Inspectors will check that employers have safe work practices, including assessing slip, trip and fall risks and responding immediately to any hazards. They will also check for policies and procedures that ensure an investigation takes place into all fall-related incidents. As well, they will check for policies that outline the roles of workplace parties for ensuring good “housekeeping” practices to keep workplaces free of tripping hazards.

Falls from ladders, mobile stands and platforms: Inspectors will check that employers ensure their workers work in a safe manner on ladders, stands and platforms. They will also check that ladders, stands and platforms have been properly assessed for hazards and maintained in good condition.

Same-level slips and trips: Inspectors will check that the floors and other surfaces are kept free of obstructions, hazards (such as oily or greasy floors) and accumulations of refuse, snow or ice. Special attention will be paid to walkways, aisles and other areas where there is pedestrian traffic.

Ergonomics: Employers are to ensure that workers are performing tasks and interacting with their workplace in a manner that prevents slips, trips and falls. For example, inspectors will check that workers are carrying an object so their view is not obstructed or they are working on a ladder in a manner that protects them from losing their balance.

Falls from heights: Inspectors will check that employers use fall arrest equipment and/or guardrails or other safety equipment is being used for work on platforms, raised floors, mezzanines, balconies when workers are working at heights.

Personal protective equipment and safety devices: Inspectors will check that employers ensure that personal protection equipment being used by workers is used maintained in good condition.

Worker training: Inspectors will check to ensure that employers are providing workers with appropriate training and supervision to prevent injuries and deaths from fall hazards.

Resources/compliance support

Ontario Ministry of Labour

Guides

- [A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [A Guide for Joint Health and Safety Committees and Health and Safety Representatives in the Workplace](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\): A Guide to the Legislation](#)

Fact sheet

- [Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls in All Workplaces](#)

Tools

- [Health and Safety Tools](#)
- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [Storage and Material Handling](#)
- [Musculoskeletal Disorders / Ergonomics](#)
- [Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders \(MSDs\) at Industrial Workplaces](#)
- [Prevent Workplace Pains & Strains! It's time to take action!](#)

Hazard alerts

Videos

Health and safety partners

The ministry works closely with its partners to protect worker's health and safety on the job.

Resources

Legislation

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Industrial Establishments, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 851](#)
- [Farming Operations, O. Reg. 414/05](#)
- [Critical Injury Defined, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 834](#)
- [Firefighters — Protective Equipment, O. Reg. 714/94](#)
- [Roll-Over Protective Structures, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 856](#)
- [Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations, O. Reg. 278/05](#)
- [Designated Substances, O. Reg. 490/09](#)
- [Teachers, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 857](#)
- [University Academics and Teaching Assistants, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 858](#)
- [Joint Health and Safety Committees—Exemption from Requirements, O. Reg. 385/96](#)
- [Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 833](#)
- [Confined Spaces, O. Reg. 632/05](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training, O. Reg. 297/13](#)
- [Inventory of Agents or Combinations of Agents for the Purpose of Section 34 of the Act, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 852](#)

Note: The regulations listed above are those relevant to the Industrial sector. For the complete list of regulations made under the OHSA, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, Chapter O.1 as amended, please see:

- www.e-Laws.gov.on.ca (updated every two weeks)
- [The Ontario Gazette](#) (published January and July)

Publications

[Health and Safety Ontario](http://www.healthandsafetyontario.ca)

www.healthandsafetyontario.ca

Topics and publications – health and safety

Ministry of Labour

Ontario.ca/labour

- [publications by topic](#)
- [list of publications](#)

Industry groups – section 21 and other advisory committees

Section 21 committees (appointed by the Minister of Labour pursuant to section 21 of the OHSA)

- Fire Service
- Police Service
- Film and Television
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Health and Safety Subcommittee (of the Health Care Section 21 Committee)

Other advisory committees

- Technical Advisory Committee (Farming Operations)
- Live Performance Advisory
- Provincial Forestry Tripartite Committee
- Refrigeration/AC Labour/Management Trades Committee
- Service Sector Labour/Management Committee
- Ski Lift Advisory Council Committee
- Elevator/Escalator Labour/Management Trades Committee
- Arborist Safe Practice Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Landscaping Safety Council
- Offices and Related Services Volunteer Group
- Restaurant Food Service Advisory Committee
- Retail Wholesale Office Advisory Committee
- Tourism and Hospitality Advisory Committee

- Vehicle Sales/Service Advisory Committee
- Metal Trades Industry Group
- Food and Beverage Safety Group
- Petrochemical Forum
- Provincial Labour-Management Safety Committee – Utilities

Health and Safety System Partners

- [Ministry of Labour](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board](#)
- [Public Services Health and Safety Association](#)
- [Workers Health and Safety Centre](#)
- [Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers](#)
- [Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Institute for Work and Health](#)