



ALBERTA

# **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE 2009 EXPLANATION GUIDE**

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*For the purpose of retaining the section numbers of this Code,  
those sections which are no longer required and which have  
been removed are indicated as "repealed".*

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## Introduction

### Purpose of the OHS Code Explanation Guide

This is the third edition of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code Explanation Guide. Its purpose is to explain the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009 in plain, easy-to-understand language. With the exception of Parts 9 and 36, changes made to this edition are indicated by a vertical line in the left hand margin. Parts 9 and 36 need to be read in their entirety because of the significant number of changes made to the text.

The OHS Code Explanation Guide does not provide “interpretations” of the requirements – interpretations are provided by the courts. Readers making use of this explanation guide are reminded that it has no legislative sanction. The OHS Code should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

The OHS Code Explanation Guide presents information that helps clarify the intent or application of each “rule” or “section” of the OHS Code. In some cases extensive background information is presented so that readers have a better appreciation of the subject material. Where appropriate, readers are directed to Safety Bulletins published by Alberta Employment and Immigration, to Web sites for documents dealing with specific topics, and to reference materials such as books and standards.

When a section in this second edition is shown as having been “repealed”, the section is no longer required and has been removed. The original section number has been retained so that the entire OHS Code does not need to be renumbered.

The Explanation Guide includes hundreds of illustrations. The illustrations are intended to help readers understand the requirements of the OHS Code and the accompanying explanations. The illustrations are not intended to be used as compliance guidelines, nor are they intended to reflect all the applicable requirements of the OHS Code.

Like the OHS Code, the OHS Code Explanation Guide is divided into three broad subject areas, and subdivided into 41 Parts or chapters as follows:

#### Core Requirements Applicable to All Industries (3 Parts)

- Part 1 – Definitions and general application
- Part 2 – Hazard assessment, elimination and control
- Part 3 – Specifications and certifications

#### Requirements Applicable to All Industries (26 Parts)

- Part 4 – Chemical hazards, biological hazards and harmful substances
  - Part 5 – Confined spaces
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- Part 6 – Cranes, hoists and lifting devices
- Part 7 – Emergency preparedness and response
- Part 8 – Entrances, walkways, stairways and ladders
- Part 9 – Fall protection
- Part 10 – Fire and explosion hazards
- Part 11 – First aid
- Part 12 – General safety precautions
- Part 13 – Joint work site health and safety committee
- Part 14 – Lifting and handling loads
- Part 15 – Managing the control of hazardous energy
- Part 16 – Noise exposure
- Part 17 – Overhead power lines
- Part 18 – Personal protective equipment
- Part 19 – Powered mobile equipment
- Part 20 – Radiation exposure
- Part 21 – Rigging
- Part 22 – Safeguards
- Part 23 – Scaffolds and temporary work platforms
- Part 24 – Toilets and washing facilities
- Part 25 – Tools, equipment and machinery
- Part 26 – Ventilation systems
- Part 27 – Violence
- Part 28 – Working alone
- Part 29 – Workplace hazardous materials information system (WHMIS)

Requirements Applicable to Specific Industries and Activities (10 Parts)

- Part 30 – Demolition
  - Part 31 – Diving operations
  - Part 32 – Excavating and tunnelling
  - Part 33 – Explosives
  - Part 34 – Forestry
  - Part 35 – Health care and industries with biological hazards
  - Part 36 – Mining
  - Part 37 – Oil and gas wells
  - Part 38 – Residential roofing – Expired
  - Part 39 – Tree care operations
  - Part 40 – Utility workers – Electrical
  - Part 41 – Work requiring rope access
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## Need more information? Call the Contact Centre

The explanations presented in this explanation guide apply to most workplaces and work situations. However, not all situations can be foreseen and therefore are not discussed in this explanation guide. Readers having questions about a particular topic or issue should call the Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre at:

1-866-415-8690  
(780-415-8690 in the Edmonton area)



Deaf or hard of hearing

- Edmonton 780-427-9999
- Other locations 1-800-232-7215

Readers can also contact the Contact Centre through the Workplace Health and Safety Web site at:

 <http://employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html>