

February 13, 2023

WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licencing Implementation: Quarter 4 Update

The provincial government has amended the Workers Compensation Act (Act) to establish requirements that asbestos abatement contractors must be licensed to operate in British Columbia, and that workers who perform this work must complete mandatory safety training and obtain certificates. WorkSafeBC will be sharing updates to summarize the past quarter's activities in implementing these requirements and upcoming opportunities for workers, employers, and other stakeholders to help shape the deliverables. The following is the quarter 4 update from WorkSafeBC.

Training and Certification

WorkSafeBC has developed a framework for the training and certification program, which identifies practical and theoretical training competencies that workers will be required to demonstrate before receiving a certificate. To be approved as a training provider for asbestos abatement, training providers will be required to offer curriculum that covers these core competencies.

Since our last update, WorkSafeBC have been engaging potential asbestos abatement training providers who have responded to our call for expressions of interest. WorkSafeBC held an information session in January, with additional sessions to be held over the coming months and have been posting additional guidance on our Asbestos training & certificates web page.

Training for worker certification is targeted to begin by mid-2023, so workers can be certified by the start of January 2024. WorkSafeBC will continue to share information, including details on who is required to have a certificate, as information becomes available.

Licensing

WorkSafeBC is currently developing a licensing scheme for abatement contractors and will be sharing more information once available.

As employers will be required to have trained and certified workers, worker training and certification will need to be developed and implemented prior to licensing. WorkSafeBC anticipates accepting applications for licensing starting in October 2023, in advance of the amendments to the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation (OHSR) and policy taking effect at the anticipated date of January 2024.

Regulation and policy review

Amendments to the OHSR will be required to align with the changes to the Act and support the certification and licensing schemes.

Extensive public consultation is a key part of our policy development process. WorkSafeBC are currently inviting feedback on proposed amendments to Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements, sections 6.1–6.2.3, of the OHSR, which are related to asbestos certification and licensing, until 4:30 p.m. on February 28, 2023. Please visit the [Current Public Hearings & Consultations](#) web page to learn more.

Resources

WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licensing Implementation: Q4 Update is found [here](#). Review the Bill 5 information on WorkSafeBC's Amendments and Revisions to the Act, [here](#).

If you have any questions about WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licencing Implementation, please contact Glen Williams CLR.