



OH&S STEWARDS BULLETIN

Questionnaire for OH&S committee members

January is often a time when Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) committees welcome new members, review their terms of reference, and set goals or priorities for the upcoming year.

To help support the work of the committees, we have created a list of questions for you, which you are free to share.

These questions – which are based on the *Workers Compensation Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* that are most relevant to health care workers – cover such areas as membership and the duties and functions of a JOHS committee. Below each question, you will find the appropriate part of the Act and/or Regulation.

Sometimes, the work of the committee can seem overwhelming or unclear. We hope this quick questionnaire helps you support your committee in identify priorities for 2014.

- How are HEU members represented on the joint health and safety committee?**
See WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 128: is the representation proportional with other unions at the work site?
- Are departments with high injury rates represented on the committee?**
See WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 128: is the representation proportional with the risk of injury to the workers in those departments?
- Are union representatives on the committee taking eight-hour employer paid training every year?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 135: for more information, see the July 2013 OHS steward bulletin available on our website under the health and safety tab.
- Is the joint health and safety committee meeting at least once a month?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 131 (2)
- Are minutes of the committee posted on the OH&S bulletin board?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 138 (b)
- How are incidents and near misses reported?**
Are all workers aware of how to report incidents? Do workers know the importance of reporting near misses? WCB Act Part 3 Division 10
- Are incidents and near misses investigated?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 11

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- Does a union health and safety committee member participate in incidents and near misses investigations?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 130 Duties of Joint Committees
- Are union representatives involved in regular inspections?**
WCB Act Part 3 Division 4 section 130 Duties of Joint Committees
- Does the employer have an effective musculoskeletal injury program?**
WCB Regulations Part 4: 4.46 MSI requirements
- Does the employer have an effective prevention of violence program?**
WCB Regulations Part 4: 4.27 Violence in the workplace
- Are workers trained on how to prevent chemical exposures?**
WCB Regulations Part 5 Chemical Agents
- Are workers trained in infectious disease?**
WCB Regulations Part 5 Biological Agents
- Are workers aware of their obligation to refuse unsafe work?**
WCB Regulations Part 3: 3.12
- Do committee members understand the process for refusal of unsafe work?**
WCB Regulations Part 3: 3.12 (4) and (5)

On behalf of HEU, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new OH&S stewards and to thank our current OH&S stewards for their ongoing dedication to make workplaces safer for all workers. The JOHS committees cannot function without your participation. Remember to take credit whenever your hard work results in a change that makes the workplace safer.

Please check out the website and feel free to pass this email on to others.

In solidarity,

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January 2014