



New Working at Heights Program Standard



The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) recently released a new standard on working at heights training. This new standard will lay out minimum learning outcomes for workplaces and trainers which will come into effect in 2014. The program “has been created to prevent falls and improve safety for workers who work at heights.” claims a Ministry of Labour (MOL) statement. It will initially be rolled out as a voluntary initiative, but will become mandatory by this summer.

The MOL maintains that training programs designed to meet this new standard will improve knowledge on fall hazards and knowledge of safety practices, including, but not limited to:

- Proper inspection of equipment for damage;
- Procedures for setting up, relocating or removing protective equipment, such as guardrails;
- Demonstrations and hands-on training on fall-arrest equipment and other devices to keep workers safe;
- Information on workplace protections and worker’s rights.

Developing mandatory fall protection training for people working at heights was a priority recommendation of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety, headed by Tony Dean in 2010.

Designed as a hazard-based standard, the working at heights program standard is intended for those who may be exposed to the hazard of falling from heights and provides for the development of curriculum about fall hazards and general safety practices to working safely at heights.

Workers who use travel restraint systems, fall restricting systems, fall arrest systems or safety nets as a source of protection against fall hazards will be required to complete two modules in the standard, the Working at Heights Basic Theory Module and the Working at Heights Practical Equipment Module.

Key elements of the Program Standard will include the following:

- Module 1: Basic Theory – foundational knowledge for workers;
- Module 2: Practical Equipment – applied knowledge and hands-on demonstration of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- Timing – baseline duration of the training for both modules (3 and 3.5 hours respectively);

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New Working at Heights Program Standard (continued)

- Delivery Requirements – modes of delivery including maximum class size;
- List of required equipment to be used during Module 2: Practical Equipment;
- Evaluation methods of learners;
- Valid for a period of three years after successful completion of the training.

The criteria for delivering working at heights training programs has not been released and will be contained in a separate Working at Heights Training Provider Standard. This standard will include instructor and evaluator qualifications, record keeping and reporting requirements. It is anticipated that providers of working at heights training programs will eventually need to meet both Program and Provider standards.

The Mathews Dinsdale Minute



For over 4 years we have been attempting to provide you with updates and information that will help you with the day-to-day running of your businesses. We have talked about time limits, provincial bargaining, health and safety (many times) and many other issues that you face on a daily basis. We have also tried to inject a little humour in this area. We want to take this month to invite you, if you have been reading this corner and have questions, to contact us with topics you would like to know about. We will do our best to build questions that are asked into future "Minutes" because if you are wondering about something, then you can be sure that someone else is as well. Please send any questions or suggestions to:

Joe Liberman at jliberman@mathewsdinsdale.com

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In the subject line please put "AAO Mathews Minute".

"We look forward to hearing from you."

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