



Acoustical Association Ontario

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Provincial in scope ...

Provincial in outlook

Chief Prevention Office to Update JHSC Standards



Chief Prevention Officer, George Gritzotis recently announced that the Prevention Office of the Ministry of Labour (MOL) will be updating the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Certification Standard with the aim to “improve the quality and consistency of JHSC training.” The JHSC member certification is currently being delivered and administered by the MOL. The Prevention Office (PO) is developing two new standards which will soon replace the current certification standard which was enacted in 1996.

The first of the new standards will be a new Training Program Standard specifying requirements that JHSC Training Programs must meet in order to be approved by the Prevention Office. The second new standard will be a new Training Provider Standard that will specify requirements training providers must meet in order to be approved by the PO as JHSC Training Delivery Agents. Together, these new standards will be part of the approval process for JHSC training. Gritzolis maintains that “by making training more relevant and helping certified JHSC members stay up to date, workers and workplaces will be safer.”

Industrial Growth in Toronto - Stable Market in Ottawa

With a weakened Canadian dollar and a rebounding United States economy, the industrial sector in Toronto will grow steadily over the next few quarters according to Colliers International. In a recent report, the organization cited that the Conference Board of Canada expects manufacturing output to increase by 2.9% in 2014 and 3.2% in 2015, but warns that the increasing electricity rates may affect the competitiveness of the market on a national and international scale. But with an overall healthier economy, solid population growth, and steady residential and non-residential construction activity, the Greater Toronto industrial market shows signs of growth throughout 2014.

For the Greater Ottawa industrial market the report states that it remains stable, and although the information and communication technology (ICT) sector has shrunk over the last half-decade, “ongoing government spending, such as the LRT project, has meant that the industrial market has been able to remain relatively insulated.

	Toronto			Ottawa		
Indicator	Q1 2013	Q1 2014	Yr over Yr	Q1 2013	Q1 2014	Yr over Yr
Availability* CMA	3.9.%	3.6.%	30 bps	5.50%	7.50%	200 bps
Net Rent CMA	\$4.86	\$5.09	4.73%	\$8.81	\$8.50	-3.52%
Industrial GDP Growth '14	2.60%*			1.50%*		
Real GDP Growth '14	2.80%*			1.40%*		

**Source: Conference Board of Canada

Mathews Minute



For this month we are returning to health & safety issues. We are sure by now that many of you have heard the media blitz about mandatory safety training. As one last (hopefully) piece of the fallout of from the scaffold collapse in Toronto on Christmas Eve 2009, a Regulation was passed under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

That Regulation will come into effect July 1, 2014, and requires every employer to give every employee and supervisor basic training in occupational health and safety. Training for employees must cover duties and rights of workers, duties of employers and supervisors, roles of health and safety representatives and committee members in the workplace, the roles of the Ministry of Labour, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board and a group of other entities, common workplace hazards, WHMIS information relating to controlled products and occupational illness, including latency.

For supervisors the requirements are similar but also include how to recognize, assess and control workplace hazards and evaluate those controls, and sources of information on occupational health and safety.

Employers are required to ensure that everyone is trained and maintain records of that training. Employees and supervisors who have prior training elsewhere do not need to be trained again, but as an employer you must verify their original training satisfied the requirements of the Regulation. As you can see, the content of this training is fairly specific. The good news is that the Ministry of Labour has published training tools and guides on line at their website to help employers achieve compliance.

Have you met these training requirements yet? By the time you read this you will have less than a month left. If the Ministry of Labour comes looking for the records, it will be important that you have met the requirements and kept proper records of having done so.



New Member

We would like to extend a sincere welcome to Hi-Tek Drywall & Acoustics. Contact information is as follows:

Hi-Tek Drywall & Acoustics
1724 Hyde Park Road
London, Ontario, N6H 5L7

Sam Halbouni Tel: 519-204-4652
Fax: 519-204-5398
Email: hitek-office@rogers.com



32 Vancho Crescent
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9A 4Z2

Phone: 416-605-6417
Fax: 416-246-1993
Email: info@aao-online.ca

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