

**Policy, Regulation and Research Division (“PRRD”)****2018 – 2020 Policy Priorities****Occupational Health and Safety Policy Workplan****1. The Partners in Injury and Disability Prevention Program (“Partners Program”) – 2018**

The Partners Program is a voluntary certification program intended to motivate employers to take a proactive role in occupational health and safety. In September 2015, the Board of Directors (“BOD”) approved the release of draft policies for stakeholder consultation. During stakeholder consultation, both workers and employers identified a need for a full review of the Partners Program beyond the scope of the draft policies. Based on this feedback, the BOD approved the policies, Items AP1-42-4 in the *Assessment Manual* and D2-111-4 in the *Prevention Manual*, on an interim basis pending a full review of the program.

The program review will cover all aspects of the Partners Program including the interim policies which expire on December 31, 2018. The PRRD is developing and consulting on draft policies at the same time as practice materials are being developed.

**2. Discriminatory Action Policy Review – 2018/19**

The aim of this project is to clarify policy and review the legal principles surrounding discriminatory action complaints. Developing more comprehensive policy will increase the transparency of the process and make it more accessible to parties. Greater awareness of the legal principles will also assist parties both in the mediation and decision-making process.

**3. Item D6-153-1, *Discriminatory Actions of the Prevention Manual* – 2018/19**

There has been some confusion as to what amounts to an “election” under Item D6-153-1, *Discriminatory Actions* in the *Prevention Manual*. The purpose of this project is to amend policy to clarify the rules for proceeding with a complaint to WorkSafeBC after the union has declined to pursue a grievance.

Work on this project is underway and will continue into 2018.

**4. Residential Demolition and Asbestos Industry – 2018**

WorkSafeBC’s recent experience with non-compliant employers in the asbestos abatement business highlights challenges in this industry during the residential demolition and renovation process. Prevention Officers are encountering problems with the quality of asbestos surveys and abatement work, as well as issues with compliance leading to workers being exposed to asbestos.

At issue is a review of the residential demolition and the asbestos abatement industries, including the potential for introducing a certification program for the asbestos industry. WorkSafeBC is engaging with stakeholders on preventing asbestos exposures and continuing to develop short-term and long-term initiatives to address this issue.

## **5. Occupational Exposure Limits (“OELs”) – 2018**

The PRRD is currently reviewing the new or revised Threshold Limit Values (“TLVs”) adopted by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (“ACGIH”) from the years 2013 – 2015. It is anticipated the proposed changes to the BC OELs will be presented to the BOD in the first quarter of 2018.

## **6. Biennial Review of Formaldehyde – 2018**

To ensure due diligence, the BOD directed the PRRD to report back to them every two years with the following information regarding formaldehyde:

- (a) results of any new scientific research – especially at the lower levels where the current OELs are
- (b) WorkSafeBC claims
- (c) claims in other Canadian jurisdictions that are significant users of formaldehyde
- (d) results of inspections by Prevention Officers

Prior to 2013, the report was done an annual basis.

The next review will commence in 2018.

## **7. Biennial Review of Styrene – 2018**

To ensure due diligence, the BOD directed the PRRD to report back to them every two years with the following information regarding styrene:

- (a) results of any new scientific research at levels between the BC OEL and the ACGIH TLVs
- (b) WorkSafeBC claims
- (c) claims in other Canadian jurisdictions that are significant users of styrene
- (d) results of inspections by Prevention Officers

Prior to 2013, the report was done an annual basis.

The next review will commence in 2018.

**8. Policies for Part 24 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (“*OHSR*”) – Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations – 2018**

The PRRD is currently reviewing the remaining policies related to Part 24 of the *OHSR*. Work on this project will continue into 2018.

**9. Bullying & Harassment – Section 173 of the *Workers Compensation Act* (“*Act*”) – 2018/19**

Investigations of bullying and harassment are in some cases subject to other requirements from the *Act* or *OHSR*. This project will include reviewing the policies to determine what elements should be included in the *OHSR*.

The PRRD anticipates scheduling consultation sessions in 2018 to review the bullying and harassment policies.