

Purpose

As of January 2013, the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations for First Aid on Prince Edward Island will change to reflect different requirements for different hazard levels in the workplace. The amended Regulations define *low hazard work* and *work other than low hazard work*, and set out the first aid requirements for each type of work.

The purpose of this document is to assist employers in determining whether the work in their workplaces involves *low hazard work* or *work other than low hazard work*, in order to comply with the appropriate first aid requirements. For the specific first aid requirements for each type of work, employers should refer to Section 9 of the [OHS General Regulations](#).

Definition

Section 9.1(1)(i) of the OHS General Regulations states:

“low hazard work” means work of an administrative, professional or clerical nature that does not require substantial physical exertion or exposure to work processes, substances or other conditions that are potentially hazardous.

Employers’ Responsibility

Employers must assess the nature of work performed by employees and determine the level of risks to which employees are exposed. Consider the work tasks and processes, the tools or equipment required for the job, the conditions that employees are exposed to, and the likelihood and severity of injury that could occur. Consider also any previous accidents or incidents that occurred at the workplace.

Samples of **low hazard work** include:

- Administrative and clerical tasks
- Retail tasks
- Professional, financial, and business services
- Training or teaching ⁽¹⁾

These tasks typically involve low risk activities with low incidence of injury that requires only minor (or no) first aid, such as minor cuts and bruises, eye irritation from dust, nuisance and irritation, or temporary discomfort ⁽²⁾.

Samples of **work other than low hazard work** include:

- Working in the presence of a hazardous substances
- Working in the presence of equipment or machinery containing substances under high pressure, substances that may explode or catch fire, or substances that may react dangerously when combined with another process material
- Using tools, equipment, or machinery for high-speed grinding, cutting, chipping, or drilling
- Operating equipment or machinery where rollover is possible
- Working near mobile equipment where there is a possibility of a worker being struck
- Working at elevations
- Entering confined spaces where toxic atmospheres may exist or develop
- Entering excavations greater than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in depth
- Working in proximity to high-voltage lines
- Being exposed to unusual risk of injury due to violence, drowning, animals, heat or cold, or falling objects
- Working with, or in proximity to, firearms or explosives
- Working where there are other hazard factors that may expose workers to risk of serious injury or occupational disease ⁽¹⁾

These tasks typically involve moderate to high risk activities with possibility of injury requiring first aid or medical attention; eg., lacerations, burns, concussion, serious sprains, minor fractures, hearing loss, amputations, poisonings, dermatitis, asthma, work-related upper limb disorders, ill-health, occupational cancer, acute fatal diseases⁽²⁾.

This guideline is intended to help employers determine whether the work performed at the workplace is *low hazard work* or *work other than low hazard work*. Employers seeking the specific first aid requirements should refer to Section 9 of the [OHS General Regulations](#), as amended January 2013.

References

1. WorksafeBC (2010, November 1). OHS Guidelines Part 3 Occupational First Aid, pp.6-7. Used with permission from http://www2.worksafebc.com/PDFs/firstaid/First_aid_guidelines.pdf
2. Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (2009, February 2). Risk Assessment. Retrieved from http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/risk_assessment.html

For more information about safe workplaces, visit the Workers Compensation Board website at www.wcb.pe.ca, or contact WCB Occupational Health and Safety at 902-368-5697 or 1-800-237-5049

