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# Equipment Specifications & Certifications in Alberta

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## CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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The following information is not a definitive guide to government legislation and does not release users of this document from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

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**\*\*\* This information alert should be regarded with high importance and communicated throughout the work place and to the Suppliers of your onsite equipment. \*\*\***

In regards to recent Workplace Health and Safety Compliance initiatives set forth by Alberta Employment & Immigration this Information Alert is being released to inform members about the regulations surrounding all equipment used on the worksite (such as drills, mulchers, quads etc.).

The alert will start off with the “basics” of what members need to know and finish with the specific regulation requirements. Members are strongly encouraged to review the referenced material in order to achieve compliance in this area.

So what is all the fuss about? If your equipment is supplied by a manufacturing company that equipment should come with manufacturers specifications indicating the equipment is capable of performing to the standards outlined in those specifications. If at any time, modifications are made to any structural part of the equipment (e.g. the frame, ROPS, FOPS or mast of the drill etc.); it **must** be certified by a professional engineer.

If your company builds their own equipment, buys equipment from a Supplier who builds the equipment themselves; or you do not have the manufacturer's specifications, the equipment **must** be inspected and certified by a professional engineer.

Before purchasing any equipment or hiring a company or person to build equipment for you, make sure they can supply your company with the specifications and certifications for that equipment.

Once the appropriate specifications and certifications have been obtained, make sure your employees are familiar with these specifications and that copies are readily available to the workers responsible for using the equipment (i.e. keep the master copy at your head office and copies at the worksite or on the actual equipment being used).

### ***Specific Regulation Requirements:***

Employers or companies purchasing equipment to be used on the worksite should ensure they are familiar with the following legislation:

#### **Alberta Occupational Code 2009 - Part 3: Specifications and Certifications**

##### **Following Specifications, an Employer must ensure that:**

- Equipment is of sufficient size, strength and design and made of suitable materials to withstand the stresses imposed on it during its operation and to perform the function for which it is intended or was designed;

## EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION IN ALBERTA

- The rated capacity or other limitations on the operation of the equipment, or any part of it, or on the supplies as described in the manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, are not exceeded;
- Modifications to equipment that may affect its structural integrity or stability are performed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, and;
- Equipment and supplies are erected, installed, assembled, started, operated, handled, stored, serviced, tested, adjusted, calibrated, maintained, repaired and dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications or the specifications certified by a professional engineer.

### **Manufacturer's and Professional Engineer's Specifications:**

If this Code requires anything to be done in accordance with a manufacturer's specifications, an employer may, instead of complying strictly with the manufacturer's specifications, comply with modified specifications certified by a professional engineer.

If this Code requires anything to be done in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and they are not available or do not exist, an employer must:

- Develop and comply with procedures that are certified by a professional engineer as designed to ensure the thing is done in a safe manner, or
- Have the equipment certified as safe to operate by a professional engineer at least every 12 calendar months.

### **Certification by a Professional Engineer:**

If this Code requires that procedures or specifications be certified by a professional engineer, the certification must:

- Be in writing, and;
- Be stamped and signed by the professional engineer.

Unless the document states otherwise, certification by a professional engineer implies that the procedures or specifications certified are fit and safe for the workers affected by them.

### **Approved Equipment**

If this Code requires equipment to be approved by a named organization, an employer must use best efforts to ensure that the seal, stamp, logo or similar identifying mark of that organization is on the equipment and legible.

### **Alberta Occupational Health Regulation - Section 7: Availability of Specifications**

If the Act, a regulation or an adopted code requires work to be done in accordance with a manufacturer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, an employer must ensure that:

- The workers responsible for the work are familiar with the specifications, and;
- The specifications are readily available to the workers responsible for the work.

If the Act, a regulation or an adopted code refers to a manufacturer's or employer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer, an employer must ensure that, during the period of time that the matters referred to in the specifications are in use, a legible copy of the specifications is readily available to workers affected by them.

An employer must ensure that the original of the document setting out manufacturer's or employer's specifications or specifications certified by a professional engineer is available in Alberta for inspection by an officer.

### **Suppliers**

In conjunction with the above, Suppliers (those who supply companies with equipment for the field) are required to adhere to Section 2 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act:

- Every supplier shall ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable for the supplier to do so, that any tool, appliance or equipment that the supplier supplies is in safe operating condition.
- Every supplier shall ensure that any tool, appliance, equipment, designated substance or hazardous material that the supplier supplies complies with this Act, the regulations and the adopted code.