



BC OHS Regulation Compliance Alert – Provision for Fire Retardant Clothing (FRC)

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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Recent discussions with employers in the Drilling and Well Servicing sector have revealed that not all Contractors are adhering to the requirements of the OHS Regulation with regards to providing FRC clothing to their workers.

The BC OHS Regulation on this matter outlines the requirements as follows:

8.2 Responsibility to provide

- (1) A worker is responsible for providing
 - (a) Clothing needed for protection against the natural elements;
 - (b) General purpose work gloves and appropriate footwear including safety footwear; and
 - (c) Safety headgear.
- (2) An employer is responsible for providing, at no cost to the worker, all other items of personal protective equipment required by this Regulation.

It is the employer's responsibility to provide specialized personal protective clothing such as FRC at no cost to the worker. This responsibility is further emphasized by the Workers Compensation Act (WC Act).

WC Act 115

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), an employer must
 - (d) Provide and maintain in good condition protective equipment, devices and clothing as required by regulation and ensure that these are used by the employer's workers,

Provision by the employer includes the proper selection, maintenance and cleaning of any FRC as well.

8.3 Selection, use and maintenance

(1) Personal protective equipment must

- (a) Be selected and used in accordance with recognized standards, and provide effective protection;
- (b) Not in itself create a hazard to the wearer,
- (c) Be compatible, so that one item of personal protective equipment does not make another item ineffective, and
- (d) Be maintained in good working order and in a sanitary condition.

The BC OHS Regulation outlines the obligation of the worker to wear FRC clothing as follows:

Flame Resistant Clothing

8.31 When required

Workers must wear flame resistant clothing appropriate to the risk if working in areas where they may be exposed to flash fires, molten metal, welding and burning or similar hot work hazards.

Please review your Company's Policies and Procedures to ensure that the requirements of the BC OHS Regulation and the WC Act with regards to the provision of FRC clothing are being met.

For further information, visit worksafebc.com or contact:

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