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# WorkSafeBC OHS Regulations Changes – Effective February 1, 2011

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CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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There have been some recent changes that came into effective February 1, 2011 to the following industry applicable WorkSafeBC OHS Regulations:

- The **definition of a “qualified avalanche planner” in relation to forestry operations and other similar activities** has been modified to ensure qualified registered professionals such as engineers, foresters, geoscientists and registered forest technologists are not restricted by the OHS Regulations from carrying out the full scope of their professional practice.

Furthermore the changes to this section will recognize there are professionals who have - through their training and experience - the knowledge and skill to carry out the role of qualified avalanche planner. These people will be professional members of the Canadian Avalanche Association, or certified guides and members of either the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides or the Canadian Ski Guide Association. After September 1, 2011, such people will need to meet the requirements of the *CAA Recommended Minimum Training and Experience for Qualified Avalanche Planners* published by the Canadian Avalanche Association in August 2008.

- On advice from legislative counsel, the WCB Standard for leg protection devices for a worker using a chain saw has changed from “*WCB Standard PPE 1-1997 Leg Protective Devices*” to the *WorkSafeBC Standard – Leg Protective Devices*. The entire Standard has been brought into the OHS Regulations as a Schedule; with some minor, non-substantive reorganization and wording changes.

Adjustments have also been made to the amendment as a result of input from the Public Hearing:

- Leg protection is to be worn at all times when a worker is operating a chain saw, not just if there is a perceived danger of leg injury;
- For longevity, the label need no longer be affixed only to the outside of the garment, but can be affixed to the inside;
- Some foreign-made garments are tested to different standards protocols which use higher threshold chain speeds yet are roughly equivalent to WorkSafeBC’s Standard in resulting safety – if chain speed is required to be on the label, this could represent an unfair marketing advantage for the garment manufacturer and give a false sense of added protection to the garment buyer; therefore, the threshold chain speed is no longer required to be on the label.