

Duties of the Employer

All employers must meet the minimum requirements for health and safety standards as required by law. An employer must provide a safe and healthy workplace:

- Establish and maintain an effective health and safety program and obtain input from the occupational health committee (OHC)
- Make sure that managers and supervisors are trained, supported, and held accountable for fulfilling their workplace health and safety requirements
- Oversee the health and safety performance of their managers and supervisors
- Make sure workers have the information, training, certification, supervision and experience to do their jobs safely
- Make sure medical/first aid facilities are provided as needed
- Set up effective occupational health committees
- Cooperate with the OHC, occupational health and safety (OHS) representative and other parties to resolve health and safety issues in a timely fashion
- Keep OHC/OHS representative meeting minutes on file and readily available
- Ensure workers are not exposed to harassment in the workplace
- Ensure that legal health and safety requirements are met

Employers are also required to have a copy of the Saskatchewan Employment Act and regulations readily available to workers and management.

It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that the subtrades on-site are following health and safety regulations. They should receive a site orientation before starting work, have the appropriate training certification readily available and be included in the documentation, for example, daily toolbox/safety meetings.

Supervisors are also required to ensure that subtrades are following the OHS Regulations, the company safety program and included in the daily paperwork and ongoing documentation.

Supervisor Responsibilities

Anyone on site who is responsible for directing workers or overseeing work with subtrades is considered a supervisor under the occupational health and safety regulations.

An employee does not need to have the word "supervisor" in their title to be considered a supervisor under legislation. It is the employer's responsibility to make sure that whomever is directed to supervise has the appropriate training to do so. Supervisors must:

- Understand and ensure compliance with workplace health and safety requirements
- Cooperate with the occupational health committee, ensure that it functions properly and ensure all workers support committee members in their health and safety activities
- Make sure hazards are identified and proper steps are taken to eliminate the hazards or control the risks
- Inspect work areas and correct unsafe acts and conditions
- Instruct and coach workers to follow safe work procedures
- Ensure only authorized, competent workers operate equipment
- Ensure equipment is properly maintained
- Ensure the necessary personal protective equipment is provided to workers and used properly
- Know how to safely handle, store, produce and dispose of chemical and biological substances at the workplace
- Understand and implement emergency procedures;
- Report and investigate incidents (accidents and dangerous occurrences)
- Promote health and safety awareness
- Cooperate with other parties in dealing with health and safety issues
- Ensure that workers under their direct supervision are sufficiently supervised
- Ensure that workers under their direct supervision are not exposed to harassment at their workplace

For more information on employer duties, refer to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020, Part 3 General Duties. For the supervisor, refer to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020, Supervision of Work 3-6